

Palestinians criticise Arafat over economic team

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat is facing mounting criticism in the occupied territories for choosing his political supporters over economists to handle the management of international aid.

The 14-member Palestinian Economic Development and Reconstruction Authority (PEDRA), created on Nov. 4 by Mr. Arafat, "includes too few economic experts and too many politicians," said Samir Abdullah, a Palestinian negotiator at multilateral talks with Israel.

Dr. Abdullah, who is also an economics professor at the Al Najah University of the West Bank town of Nablus, called for the formation of "a panel composed exclusively of experts which would impose its views on the economic council."

Yusef Al Sayegh, a PLO economist, resigned last week from the council in protest at what he called "the politicians' dominance," the East Jerusalem-based Palestinian daily newspaper Al Quds reported.

The joint PLO-Israel econo-

mics commission was holding its first meeting Tuesday and Wednesday in Paris on the transfer of economic responsibilities to the Palestinians under the autonomy deal Sept. 13.

"The politicians should have refused to take part in the council because they are very well aware that they lack competence in economic affairs," said Abdul Samara, an economist from the West Bank opposed to the PLO-Israel deal.

Dr. Samara stressed that Mr. Arafat's "erroneous" choice of PEDRA members was "the logical consequence of bad financial management of the PLO which has been going on for years."

Mr. Arafat has been blamed for much of the mismanagement at the PLO, which was plunged into financial crisis when Gulf states cut funding because of his support for Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait three years ago.

Dr. Samara said donors such as the United States, E.C. and Japan, who offered more than \$2 billion in aid to the Palesti-

nians over five years, also bear part of the responsibility.

"The international community and the World Bank should have never agreed to deal with Palestinians with such an unprofessional approach," he said.

In an apparent veiled criticism of Mr. Arafat, the spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks with Israel, Hanan Ashrawi, said Sunday she supported "more democracy within the Palestinian bodies" and suggested that "people with proper qualifications" be nominated.

The vice-president of the World Bank, Caio Koch-Weser, said last week he was disappointed that PEDRA's creation "had been dominated by political considerations." He hinted that aid to the Palestinians might be delayed.

A World Bank delegation concluded recently a three-week-visit to the occupied territories to finalise a technical assistance programme aimed in particular at helping the Palestinians make use of \$50 million in emergency aid.

U.S. offers F-15E jets to Israel, officials say

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has offered 20 modified F-15E attack jets to Israel for about \$1.5 billion but Israel has not said whether it will buy the warplanes, U.S. defence officials said Monday.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said Israel was apparently still deciding whether to buy a new version of the sophisticated F-15E ground attack jet made by McDonnell Douglas Corp., additional F-16 jets made by Lockheed Corp. or the F/A-18, also made by McDonnell Douglas.

If Israel buys the F-15E, considered the world's most advanced ground attack jet, it would be the first foreign country allow to do so by the United States.

But such a sale, even if it is made over several years, would eat up a large amount of the \$1.8 billion that the United States gives to Israel each year for arms purchases.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met for over three hours with Defence Secretary Les Aspin Monday. He later told reporters that cost was a problem but he hoped a decision was near on the warplane.

The meeting followed a promise by President Bill Clinton Friday that Washington would help improve Israeli security — including providing more warplanes, anti-missile defences and computer technology — to boost Israeli confidence en route to Middle East peace.

Mr. Rabin declined to say whether Israel would buy the F-15E, which normally costs about \$50 million a plane. U.S. defence sources said the cost of the 20-plane package would be pushed up to \$1.8 billion by the addition of air-to-air missiles and other equipment, spare engines, logistics and training.

"There are some technical things that need to be worked out and we are working on those," Mr. Aspin told reporters.

"We have to study the problems of cost, the cash flow..." Mr. Rabin said.

"I believe we had a good meeting... discussions will continue this week, and I hope by the end of this week, or



Les Aspin



Yitzhak Rabin

later, decisions will be made," he added.

The two officials declined to specify the exact type of aircraft involved in the discussions.

The United States has sold F-15s to Saudi Arabia, but models that lack some of the sophisticated radar and other systems that would be included in the Israeli package, Pentagon officials said.

The F-15 Eagle is America's premier fighter-bomber, capable of handling opponents in the air and targets on the ground, at night and in adverse weather.

One of the officials said some "fairly minor" changes would be made, such as in its software packages, to maintain American superiority. It would be identified as the F-15J, one of the officials said.

The Israelis have 51 older model F-15s, but the newest long-range version would enable Israel to reach Iran and Iraq.

No formal decision has been made, one of the officials stressed.

"We just gave them the cost and pricing schedule for 20. They asked what they could get for \$1.8 billion... they are the ones who have to decide what to buy," the official said.

"It's a question of affordability, what kind of mix they can afford" over a certain time frame, the second official added.

Syria has threatened to boycott the next round if no progress is made.

Administration, Congress would be notified and would have several weeks to pass legislation to block such a sale.

The State Department, meanwhile, confirmed that Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit the Middle East soon, probably next month, to offer any help that the United States can give in moving the peace process forward.

One of the keys to the Middle East peace process, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Rabin agreed after a meeting Friday, is any future peace agreement between Israel and Syria.

Syria has a powerful air force made up of hundreds of Soviet-built warplanes, including advanced MIG-29 fighter jets.

In Damascus, Syrian officials said that Mr. Clinton had assured Syria the United States backs a comprehensive Middle East peace and that Mr. Christopher would visit the region next month.

A message from Mr. Clinton to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad was delivered to Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharara by Christopher Ross, the American ambassador, during a meeting in Damascus, early in September.

The last round of peace talks involving Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians was held in Washington in September.

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'Sudan one of world's worst failures'

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a report on the world's 10 worst humanitarian failures, the medical aid group Doctors Without Borders singles out Sudan as "a ruthless dictatorship that violates every human right in the book."

The group's book-length annual report, released Tuesday, also criticises international action in Angola, Bosnia, Somalia and other countries.

It says they often are characterised by economic sanctions that hurt only the poor, peacekeeping operations that turn partisan and more concerned with elections than human survival.

The report, "Life, Death and Aid," was released by the U.S. branch of the private group founded by French doctors two decades ago.

Gen. Sleem did not report the market value of the burned drugs.

The drive aims at obliterating a multi-million-dollar trade in narcotics, cigarettes and other household and electrical appliances. The Syrian army lent considerable support to Lebanese troops in the campaign.

Syria, which has 40,000 troops stationed in Lebanon under an Arab League mandate, has been under U.S. pressure to curb the narcotics trade.

Vast hash and marijuana fields across Lebanon's eastern border with Syria have been abolished, reflecting Lebanon's determination to restore

Lebanese police burn seized drugs in public

BEIRUT (AP) — Police on Monday publicly burned more than 1,800 kilogrammes of drugs in the latest phase of a nationwide crackdown on narcotics abuse to attract foreign investment to help post-war reconstruction.

Nearly 1,500 kilogrammes of hash, 291 kilogrammes of pure cocaine and 38 kilogrammes of heroin were set ablaze at the Beirut port. The operation was watched by French, Australian, Dutch and Scandinavian narcotics agents.

Brigadier General Salim Sleem, head of Lebanon's narcotics police, said the drugs were seized in a spate of busts over the last two months. He called it "the latest link in a six-month crackdown on breeders, smugglers and narcotics dealers."

Hashish production has been pegged at 700-800 tonnes, with an estimated five tonnes of heroin.

Western officials said last year that the narcotics trade in the Bekaa Valley, east of Lebanon, was worth around \$500 million a year. But other estimates ranged upward from \$1.5 billion a year.

The narcotics trade mushroomed during the war, with militias using the profits to buy weapons and power.

The drugs were mainly smuggled to Western Europe, North America, Australia, Israel and Egypt. Drug addiction in Lebanon itself increased drastically during the war.

Its progressing destruction of the narcotics trade naturally had an adverse impact on Lebanon's already shattered economy but it marked a significant breakthrough for Mr. Hariri's government in its drive to stamp out corruption and crime.

The government hopes the campaign would reassure foreign nations about Lebanon's recovery from civil war chaos to encourage them to extend financial aid for reconstruction, which needs up to \$10 billion by U.N. estimates.

Lebanon's drugs have long been a main income of various extremist groups around the Middle East.

NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Arabia gives \$13m in aid to Bosnia

JEDDAH (AFP) — The Saudi cabinet Monday approved a gift of \$13 million in food and medicine for the mainly Muslim authorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. King Fahd, who directed that the funds be made available, also ordered Saudi hospitals, both civilian and military, to take more Bosnian casualties from the fighting among Muslims, Serbs and Croats in the former Yugoslav republic. He appealed to Saudi residents to contribute to a Saudi Bosnian aid fund, chaired by Riyadh Governor Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz. Since the start of the conflict in April 1992, Saudi Arabia has provided Bosnian Muslims with nearly \$150 million, along with several tonnes of food and medical supplies.

U.N. urges Tehran to end political assassinations

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Iran must stop its intelligence agents from targeting political opponents living outside the country, the United Nations Human Rights Commission said in a report. "There are sufficient grounds for urging the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to adopt prompt and effective measures to stop its intelligence agents from threatening or attempting to kill members of the Iranian opposition living abroad," the report said Monday. The U.N. commission also urged Iran to cooperate with investigations into threats or attacks on Iranian natives living outside the country. Among the attacks, the report documents the Aug. 28 assassination of Behran Azzafer, an Iranian Azeri leader living in Ankara, as well as the abduction of Mohammad Ghaderi, another Iranian leader living in Turkey. Perhaps the best known victim was former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar, killed in a Paris suburb in 1991. An investigation found that about 50 people in several countries had participated in preparing and carrying out Bakhtiar's assassination, the U.N. report said. The report also noted deteriorating conditions in Iran's prisons, where about 20,000 political prisoners are being held.

Kuwait's ruler to visit Iran soon

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti diplomat said the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, would soon visit Iran, the official Kuwait News Agency reported. "The visit of his highness the emir to Iran aims at... spreading the spirit of understanding and trust between the two countries to serve the region," Kuwaiti Charge d'Affaires in Tehran Fahd Al Dhafri was quoted as saying. Mr. Dhafri said the emir had accepted an invitation to visit from President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and promised to fulfil it soon, a KUNA despatch from Tehran said late Monday. The agency said Mr. Dhafri had conveyed a message from Sheikh Jaber to the Iranian leader. Mr. Dhafri said the date of the visit would be determined through diplomatic channels in the near future. The visit would be Sheikh Jaber's first trip to Iran since becoming emir in 1977.

Turkey wants \$170m in U.S. naval arms

WASHINGTON (R) — Turkey wants to buy torpedoes, missiles and other U.S. naval arms and ammunition for four warships at a cost of about \$170 million, the Defence Department said Monday. Included in the purchase would be 32 Harpoon anti-ship missiles, 64 MK-46 torpedoes, 40 anti-submarine rockets, 3,000 rounds of five-inch ammunition, 40,000 rounds of 20mm cartridges and other equipment related to the lease of four Knox class frigates to Turkey from the U.S. Navy. The Pentagon said the principal U.S. contractors involved in the package would be McDonnell Douglas Corp and Alliant Techsystems.

Kuwait clears Iraqi of 'collaboration'

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti court overturned the death sentence of an Iraqi convicted of collaborating with Iraq during the 1990-91 occupation, a court official said on Tuesday. "The court found contradictions in the testimonies of the witnesses in that case and therefore acquitted the defendant," an official of the court of cassation told Reuters without elaboration. The cassation court upheld a guilty verdict and a six-month jail term imposed on the man, Ghaleb Mohammad Turki, for illegal entry into Kuwait. Newspapers said the state security court imposed the sentence in May. Death sentences in Kuwait automatically are reviewed by the court of cassation.

King to shake up Morocco's bureaucracy

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco Monday ordered that top civil servants be transferred every four years to shake up the kingdom's ponderous bureaucracy and keep it on its toes. "The duty of each government is to discover weaknesses in the administration and eradicate them," he said in a letter to Prime Minister Mohammed Karim Lamrani published by the official news agency MAP. A new government of technocrats led by Mr. Lamrani was appointed by the monarch on Thursday with the task of holding down the state deficit, controlling inflation and providing jobs. King Hassan told the new cabinet that it "must avoid routine and embark on new measures." Foreign business often encounter administrative obstacles in Morocco, something which may discourage foreign investment, Western diplomats say. "One of the causes of these weaknesses... is keeping senior civil servants in the same post and in the same place for too long. A special relationship is developed between him and his subordinates, leading to routine work harmful to public interest," the king said.

Cyprus to open embassy in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Cyprus will open an embassy in Israel for the first time, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said on Monday. It said the island's ambassador would present his credentials to President Ezer Weizman on Nov. 24. Israel has maintained an embassy in Nicosia since 1960. Cypriot Foreign Minister Alecos Michaelides was due in Israel Tuesday evening for a three-day official visit. It will be the first visit to the Jewish state by a Cypriot foreign minister.

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Upper/lower price in £ per kg.
Apple 760/500
Banana 500/300
Banana (Milkshake) 520/320
Bacon 520/320
Carrot 280/200
Cabbage 140/100
Cauliflower 260/200
Clementine 200/160
Cucumbers (large) 140/100
Cucumbers (small) 200/160
Eggplant 260/180
Garlic 950/600
Grapes 700/500
Guava 440/300
Lemon 180/100
Marrow (large) 140/100
Marrow (small) 280/200
Mukuluk 450/300
Olives (green) 240/180
Onion (dry) 300/200
Papaya 700/500
Pepper (hot) 190/100
Pepper (sweet) 180/100
Potato 350/280
Tomato 200/120
Spinach 300/200

MARKET PRICES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 Aqaba (RJ)
06:30 Rome (RJ)
10:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:00 Berlin, London (RJ)
11:50 Istanbul (RJ)
12:50 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
13:50血红蛋白 (RJ)
14:50血红蛋白 (RJ)
15:50血红蛋白 (RJ)
16:50血红蛋白 (RJ)
17:50血

Home News



His Majesty King Hussein Monday evening receives U.S. senator David Boren (Petra photo)

Visiting U.S. senator praises Jordan's help

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.S. Senator David Boren Tuesday concluded a brief visit to Amman and praised the Jordanian authorities for facilitating his trip to Baghdad where he secured the release of American oil businessman Kenneth Beatty who spent 205 days in Iraqi jail. Senator Boren, in a departure statement, said Mr. Beatty had been well-treated in Iraq during his detention.

He said during his brief visit here he had an audience with His Majesty King Hussein Monday evening and discussed the Middle East peace process.

Praising the democratic march in Jordan, Senator Boren said it has set a good example to be copied by other countries in the region.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein ordered his release in response to a request from the

U.S. senator and other prominent Americans.

Mr. Beatty, who is in his 50s, had been suffering from heart problems, reports said.

He was quoted by the Jordan News agency, Petra, as saying that he received excellent treatment by the Iraqis while he was in jail and he was provided with all his needs including medical care.

Petra quoted Senator Boren as saying that his talks with the Iraqi authorities were of a humanitarian nature, adding that the U.S. government had nothing to do with his mission.

He said his three-day visit to Iraq was at the invitation of the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations. His meeting in Baghdad, he said, with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, was useful and fruitful.

Crown Prince to set YMCA cornerstone

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday will lay the cornerstone of a new building to serve as a social services centre for the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in Jordan.

The project is being carried out at Yadioudeh, opposite the Amman National Park on the Queen Alia International Airport Highway.

Government ministers' deputies and prominent individuals including members of the diplomatic missions have

been invited to attend the ceremony to take place at noon.

Functioning in Jordan since 1961, the YMCA has pursued efforts to meet the needs of the needy communities within the country and to concentrate on self-help projects through training and development of individuals.

Much of the YMCA work has been focused on benefiting the Palestinian refugees and has included training more than 500 youth community leaders.



REVIEWING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday received Mrs. Morillon, wife of Lieutenant General Philippe Morillon of the French army and former commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia, at Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF). During her visit, Mrs. Morillon was given a presentation about the projects and activities of QAF as well as the activities of the Jordanian National Committee for Women. Following the presentation, Mrs. Morillon discussed Queen Alia Fund's role in community and economic development and training with members of QAF's board of trustees and staff. Mrs. Morillon, who was accompanied by Mrs. Claude Marie, wife of the French military attaché in Amman, showed great interest in social development in Jordan, particularly the role of women in development.

New controls to be placed on radio, T.V. advertising

AMMAN (Petra) — Radio and television advertisements will be subject to specific professional controls and regulations, according to a source for Jordan Radio and Television Corporation.

The new controls are part of the Ministry of Information plans to develop a national information strategy for the years 1994.

They have been agreed upon by Jordanian intellectuals, information specialists and experts on habits and traditions prevailing in the Jordanian society, the source said.

The new controls and reg-

ulations which cancel other regulations or controls in force, provide that advertisements be true, accurate and in line with the religious and moral values of the Jordanian society.

The advertisements should observe the general taste in Jordan and should not harm people's feelings or dignity, nor should they seek to undermine any other products or the image of other advertisers.

They stipulate that advertisements with people appearing therein should not be aired until the approval of the people concerned is obtained.

Husseini appeals for help

(Continued from page 1) some of the biggest rampages, as saying they had been under orders not to use any force against the settlers, even in life-threatening situations.

But the army spokesman, in an official statement, said soldiers were under orders to "act firmly and aggressively against Jewish disturbers of the peace and Arabs equally."

The statement said soldiers could use "reasonable force" with officers' permission.

Palestinians said soldiers on

50 officers of proposed Palestinian police force begin ICRC training course on humanitarian law

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A batch of 50 officers of the proposed Palestinian police force expected to be deployed in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip under the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord has started a training course at the International Committee of the Red Cross in Amman on humanitarian law.

PLO officials said the three-day training course, which started Monday, comes as part of a pledge made by the PLO leadership to respect human rights and civil rights while enforcing the law in the occupied territories.

The batch of 50 is part of the larger police force, estimated to be around 20,000.

and the trainees are expected to be coached on "specific human rights aspects of police work such as arrests, detention and the use of force," an ICRC press release said.

The officers, to be followed by another batch of 50, are expected to become instructors themselves to train others in the police force on the humanitarian task of their work, it said.

PLO officials said Chairman Yasser Arafat had been contacted by various international relief agencies and humanitarian organisations as well as human rights watchdogs with appeals that every aspect of humanitarian law be followed and respected in the autonomous area proposed under the Israel-PLO accord.

"In principle, Arafat has

agreed to the request and has signed agreements with some of the organisations while other agreements would be endorsed soon," said a senior PLO official.

According to the PLO official, one of the agreements expected to be formalised soon is a PLO endorsement of a human rights charter drawn up by Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organisation.

Senior officials from Amnesty as well as Middle East Watch and several other organisations dealing with human rights abuse in the region met with the PLO chairman shortly after the Israel-PLO accord was announced.

"Our concern is to ensure that the new Palestinian entity will be an exception in a region where human rights

are by and large ignored in the midst of conflicts and political upheavals," said an Amnesty activist.

"We are happy to see that the PLO leadership is living up to its commitments as evident to the Red Cross training for the police force," added the activist.

The ICRC press release said similar courses were also being offered in Egypt, another centre where members of the Palestinian police force are undergoing training in routine police work such as investigations, forensic medicine and use of modern equipment related to maintaining law and order.

"Thanks to the agreement

on the Palestinian, Jordanian and Egyptian authorities, the ICRC hopes to contribute with this course to the respect of humanitarian principles in

the future autonomous territories of Gaza and Jenin," the all-Swiss agency said.

"It is convinced that the respect of the human being will, as always, be conducive to peace in the region."

The PLO is seeking a 30,000-strong police force to replace Israeli security forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to maintain law and order, but Israel is suggesting that their number be limited to one for every 100 Palestinian inhabitants of the occupied territories; this would mean between 20,000 and 21,000 policemen based on a total Palestinian population of between two million and 2.1 million.

Most of the police force is drawn from the units of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA). In addition, the force will also include former mem-

bers of a Palestinian force working under the control of the Israeli occupation who resigned shortly after the Palestinian uprising began in 1987.

Up to 3,000 PLO soldiers stationed in Jordan are expected to have been trained in Jordanian police facilities before the end of this year. Others are being trained in Egypt and Yemen, the PLO official said.

In addition, the PLO has accepted 3,000 applicants from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Earlier batches of Palestinians from the occupied territories were deployed in Jenin and parts of Gaza last month, mainly as a token of Palestinian control. Most of them are involved in directing traffic and maintaining order at demonstrations.



Examples of some of the traditional architecture of Salt (Staff photo by Aynsley Floyd)

Experts aim to conserve traditional architecture

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-day symposium on the conservation of architectural heritage in Jordan and the Arab World will open at the University of Jordan Saturday.

Hold under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the symposium is organised by the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, in cooperation with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and the Aga Khan Unit for Islamic Studies.

The exhibition will also display designs by University of Jordan students as well as proposals for restructuring the old Aqaba Railway line.

According to Dr. Mahadin, the participants to the symposium will be representing Turkey, India, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, Pakistan, Indonesia, Libya, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates as well as Jordan.

The organisers said that the delegates will discuss projects aimed at the conservation of traditional architecture.

Jordanian papers will cover traditional architecture of Salt, Irbid and Taybeh, they noted.

Kamel Mahadin, head of the organising committee said that an architectural exhibition displaying aspects of the Nahrat city of Petra will be held during the conference.

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Keep in touch

QATAR'S decision to establish telephone links with the West Bank has raised eyebrows in many Arab countries that have yet to get used to the accelerated pace of developments in the Middle East region. Ostensibly the reason for Doha's bold step is to facilitate contacts between the Palestinian people dispersed all over the world, especially the Gulf region. Arab states and peoples may regard this initiative as premature "normalisation" of relations with the state of Israel at a time when the peace process has yet to be formally concluded. Others would argue that linking the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip with the other parts of the Arab World would strengthen the resolve of the Palestinian people in their struggle for independence by enhancing their channels of communications with the outside world. In pragmatic terms, isolating the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories from their own people in the diaspora as well as from the Arab Nation at large would only push them even further into the Israeli embrace, the last thing, strategically speaking, that would be on the Arab agenda.

There are obviously real risks in reestablishing telephone links between the occupied territories and the Arab World. There could be security risks that may undermine the stability of the Arab countries. This fear, however, may be exaggerated because telephone and facsimile contacts with the West Bank and Gaza Strip could only be made more difficult but not totally preventable. Palestinians have been calling their folks back home through the services of third parties with the full knowledge of all concerned. If there were really any security dangers present, available precautionary measures would still be used in the case of direct links.

At the current critical stage of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, it would seem infinitely more productive for the Arabs to reestablish telephone links with Palestinians under occupation than to resort to worn out complexes about such steps.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAY Arabic daily Tuesday commented on planned visits by His Majesty King Hussein to Cairo and Damascus, noting that the Monarch was bound to discuss the prospects of peace in the region and the coming U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region. Coordination among the Arab parties is a national necessity at this juncture and the King is keen on arriving at a comprehensive peace with Israel involving all parties, said the paper. Nothing short of a comprehensive peace that would entail full withdrawal and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights can survive, said the daily. All the previous deals with Israel served as temporary agreements that collapsed or will collapse in the face of any new developments in the region, said the paper. The American secretary of state's coming tour, added the paper, clearly indicates the presence of major obstacles impeding the path of peace and requiring serious international efforts, especially on the part of Washington, to help overcome the problems and implement U.N. resolutions, the paper added. What the Arab and Muslim people demand from the world community is full implementation of U.N. resolutions pertinent to the Middle East so that the international legitimacy's credibility can survive in the eyes of the nations of the world, continued the paper. It is not enough to say that peace is closer due to the signing of agreements unless, said the paper, people can see concrete steps taken to make that peace materialise.

AL DUSTOUR commented on the upcoming visit to the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, saying that he is coming to deal with the obstacles that have delayed the peace process and prevented a peace agreement so far. There is no doubt that the tour will represent Washington's renewal of its commitment to play the role of partner in the peace process which has been blocked mainly on the Syria-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks, said the paper. Mr. Christopher will no doubt seek to stimulate the peace process along these two tracks and if he can achieve breakthrough, the road to peace will be paved, added the daily. But, it said, one should not forget that the Israelis have lately hardened their own position along the track with Syria, following the signing of the PLO-Israeli deal in Washington. Therefore, one can safely say that Mr. Christopher's coming visit will be a testing ground for the United States and its commitments to help the two sides reach a deal, it added. Unless a comprehensive deal is struck along all tracks, peace treaties will remain a matter of ink and paper. Unless the Americans exert real and serious efforts this time, the paper said, the prospects for peace remain very grim indeed.

Executive and legislative checks and balances

By Izzat R. Dajani

Now that the parliamentary elections are completed and the deputies have been selected by the votes of their respective constituencies, it is time to think and plan for the next stage. The government which supervised the elections is expected to resign after it completed its mandate as set by His Majesty King Hussein. However, most indications are that Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali will form the new government, particularly that he is well versed in the peace process and its overt and covert details. More importantly, the new Parliament is characterised by a dominance of main stream, pro-establishment, centrist, and tribalist members. The street banners and candidates' slogans before the elections touched on the peace process to some degree, but the dominant issues were economy and institutional reforms and development.

While Dr. Majali can deal with the Parliament's formation, his Cabinet members need to be able to deal with the pressing issues both the country and the government are faced with. Most members of the present government are either bureaucrats or "old-fashion" civil servants. A major reshuffle needs to take place, introducing new figures into the government in order to allow it to face the tremendous challenges that need skill and experience.

Merit in government must be based on excellence and not on tribal allegiance, North and South or East and West. Analysts expect the new Cabinet to include a number of legislators who are experienced politicians and who the government needs to fulfill its policies, accomplish its mission and push forward the democratic process. This is where we sincerely hope such analysts are proven wrong! The government needs entrepreneurship and not statesmanship. Appointing legislators in the new cabinets had previously been either a functional reward for their pledges and activities or a measure to co-opt and mute their critical voices. None of these forms does the country need. This is time to innovate problem-solving and not pay back old favours. The government needs to work with Parliament and not co-opt it, particularly when the latter appears docile from its composition and its early, possibly premature, reading.

Elections were not run on party politics, except for the Islamic Action Front (IAF) which had a clear mission and an even clearer mandate. Since family and tribal grounds and allegiances

dominated the election characteristics, election results did not produce a dominant party or a coalition of parties that can force and influence events to control the government and hence put party politics into full practice.

We have regularly stressed that the Cabinet-member's honour is vested in his ability to fully execute the policies of the government as if they all agree with his own personal convictions. The honour of the legislator lies in an exclusive personal responsibility for what he does. This is where the prime minister should fiercely avoid including legislators in his Cabinet — something easier said than done. However, there is always a "first" to everything and thus usually requires vision and courage.

It is truly time people started trusting government. Many governments in the past appeared to talk right but walk left. Governance is a very complex issue and the government needs to set its goals and priorities. Goals are thus very clearly articulated following extensive preparation for the long-run tasks, be they economic or political. Set goals can be pursued steadily.

The government's most work at reducing its foreign debt, out budget deficit, increase private investments, improve the infrastructure, shorten government red tape and become more efficient. Many pressing issues need to be handled efficiently and intelligently, such as unemployment, health, education, social welfare. Jordan seems to be plagued now by lagging competitiveness, lack of jobs, crumbling infrastructure and despair. Poverty and income disparity are becoming very

serious.

It thus appears that the demands the government strongly faces are social and economic. It needs to design social programmes in such a way that public services will have the most direct effects on public lives. The economy needs to be reoriented taking all above issues into consideration. Results must bear

"Among (the government's) most pressing needs is identifying the various resources and pulling them together. Appropriate planning can truly make a difference as it allows the government to act, perform and solve as opposed to react, confuse and half solve."

the consequences of equitable, just conclusions. It is time for the government to approach public policies and issues with a "soft heart but a hard head". This is compassion with determination as much as it is a dream with tangible results.

The government's purpose is hence defined by the services the people need and want, out by what the system is currently designed to deliver.

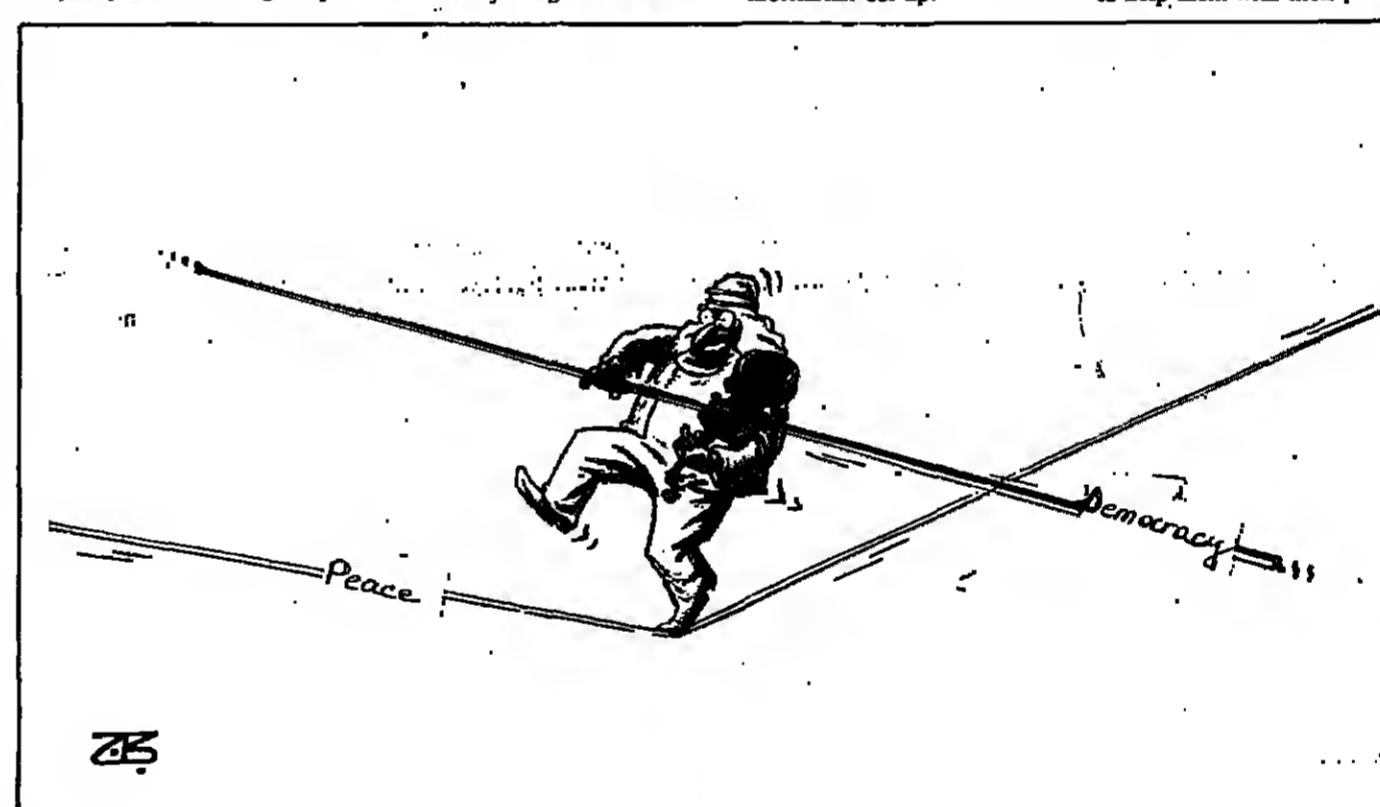
er. It is important to define here the general ailing criteria we need to treat. Public service institutions find it difficult to innovate. In the absence of a profit test, as in the private sector, size is the one criterion of success for government and growth in size becomes a goal in itself. This bears the almost always predictable outcome which is bureaucratic behaviour. This is, ironically, the very criteria we need to improve and which bears the characteristics of a "Catch 22" situation.

It may be interesting for the government to recognise what it is doing well, what are the limitations to its strength and to judge performance against objectives. Among its most pressing needs is identifying the various resources and pulling them together. Its policies need not be reactive measures as in many past governments. Appropriate planning can truly make a difference as it allows the government to act, perform and solve as opposed to react, confuse and half solve.

Jordan is still going through the process of economic adjustment under agreements with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The country has every potential for success and growth since nations with more serious crisis, as in Latin America, showed amazing results following their economic policies. But the task needs political commitment and sensitivity. Planning is considered on a long-and-short-term basis. It must be understood that the process is slower with a coalition-building structure in a democratic Jordan as compared to a faster process and centralised structure in an authoritarian set-up.

Striking the balance between economically viable and politically feasible policies is key to government success. It needs to measure winners and losers. It must evaluate successful management of its new policies. There are various forces affecting government policies of adjustment, which include meeting donor's requirement, population demands to recover its levels of living, and pressures from the military, business, organised labour and pressure groups. On the other hand, the elected legislators must force change towards improving the functioning of government and strengthening the state. Many promises were pledged during campaigning prior to elections. But it is humanly impossible to implement every thing pledged. U.S. Governor Mario Cuomo once said: "You campaign in poetry and you have to govern in prose." Every legislator must remember why he was elected.

The new prime minister appears to have no other option but to innovative in government as it is time to incorporate some measure of "total quality management" in the public system, much as is done in private sector industries. People need to be trained and well prepared. They need to have the productive capacity and be able to work together. The biggest task for the new government represented by the character and determination of its prime minister, may be breaking up old and constructing new traditions. The new cabinet needs to be one for the experts, the experienced and the technocrats and out for old-fashioned politicians and obsolete bureaucrats.



Palestinians fear Arafat one-man rule

By Robert Mahoney
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Most Palestinians will hail Yasser Arafat as the leader of their emerging state when the PLO chief follows retreating Israeli troops into Jericho in January.

But many of the two million Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are already questioning whether Mr. Arafat will try to rule as an iron-fisted guerrilla commander or a democratic statesman.

They fear that the political freedoms denied by 26 years of Israeli military occupation will remain outside their grasp.

The debate here is no longer about whether Mr. Arafat should have concluded a peace deal with Israel in September. The opposition has already lost that battle.

It is about whether Mr. Arafat, who has run the PLO as a one-man-show for a quarter of a century, will allow popular democracy and run government efficiently.

Disclosures last week that leading lights within Mr. Arafat's Fatah wing of the PLO had drafted a document demanding curbs on his power have sharpened the debate.

Optimists, such as Ibrahim Abu Lughod, a political scientist at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, believe pluralism is strong enough among Palestinians here to prevent dictatorship.

Pessimists, such as Ziad Abu Amr, also of Bir Zeit, point to Mr. Arafat's administration of Palestinians first from Beirut and later from Tunis as an



Yasser Arafat
omen of the one-man-rule to come.

"We are not sure that the PLO leadership is capable of making the philosophical and intellectual shift from running a national liberation movement to running a civil society," Mr. Abu Amr said.

Mr. Arafat's appointment of himself to run the main body responsible for economic and financial control of the territories has added to the reformers' fears.

Opponents say Mr. Arafat will control the money and the Palestinian police force now being formed to take over internal security after Israeli soldiers begin withdrawing from Gaza and Jericho on Dec. 13.

They seize on remarks by Mr. Arafat's lieutenants in September that dissent to the peace accord would be crushed as signs of future repression.

"Arafat runs the PLO as if it

were his own private enterprise," said Ghazi Abu Jayyab, a leader of the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) faction of the PLO in Gaza. "This leads me to question what democracy we shall have during the self-rule period," he told Reuters.

His criticism is mirrored at the other end of the political spectrum by the Islamic fundamentalists who also oppose the deal with Israel.

"What we will have with autonomy is another Arab regime," said Adnan Salem, who is close to Islamic Jihad.

"One-man rule like in Iraq, or Syria or Egypt," he told Reuters. "I think Arafat will use force to silence the opposition."

Critics such as Mr. Salem point to the assassination of three PLO members in Gaza since September in Fatah power struggles as evidence of bloodletting to come. Fatah sources, however, think Mr. Arafat can contain the violence.

They believe that with the purse strings and a police force in his bands, not to mention an Israeli political and security establishment willing him to succeed, Mr. Arafat can capitalise on the skills which have kept him at the head of one of the world's most fractious liberation movements for a generation.

Mr. Abu Amr and many others say Palestinians fear that the corruption and mismanagement that have marked PLO government either from Lebanon or Tunis could come to Jericho.

He doubts, however, that

such fears would translate into a rebuff for Fatah at the polls for a council to run the transitional five-year self-rule period. The election must be held by next July.

Mr. Arafat, the symbol of Palestinian nationalism, does not need to stand for election. His popularity is such that Fatah is expected to win handily.

Fatah sources expect him to centralise the non-Islamic opposition, which has little popular support, by offering them guaranteed seats in the council.

Militants of the Hamas Islamic Movement inside the territories have still not said whether they will boycott the poll despite such statements from members abroad.

Some Palestinians, Mr. Abu Lughod among them, place great hopes on the elections as a guarantor of political freedom.

"The actual practice of pluralism is embedded in Palestinian life," he said, pointing to the existence of freedom of expression and good relations between Palestinian Muslims and Christians.

But for many Palestinians academic questions of political freedom are secondary, if Mr. Arafat can get the Israeli army off their backs and put money in their pockets he seems fairly secure.

The broader spectrum of the population seems to be indifferent. Politics is not a priority for them," said Mr. Abu Amr. "Arafat is like the other Arab leaders. People will accept what he says. Public opinion is easily manipulated."

LETTERS

Arduous road ahead

To the Editor:

For Jordanian women, the election of Tujan Faisal to Parliament was our day in the light. We finally made it in the political process through our own efforts and depending solely on our own conviction that progress, if it is to be reached, has to be based on the equal participation of both sexes.

Although our expectations of Ms. Faisal are high and correctly placed, we are not oblivious to the great task ahead of us. We yearly realise that our candidate's actions and views in Parliament will be put under close scrutiny. Despite the fact that our woman MP shares this fate with her male counterparts, we fear that her views will not be judged merely as her own personal competence. Ms. Faisal's ability, unlike that of her male counterparts, will be taken as the index by which to measure the competence/incompetence of all Jordanian women and their supporters.

Moreover, in our euphoria for her success, we all realise that the road ahead for the elected woman is not going to be easy. In a small country with minimal resources and facing complex regional, socio-economic and geo-political issues, she, alongside her male counterparts, has to work very hard to address these issues. While doing so, we also expect our female candidate to be our mouthpiece in Parliament. She will hopefully address issues of concern to women, such as the personal status code, etc., which were not addressed in the previous all-male Parliament.

Therefore, for those who made a woman's presence in Parliament a possibility, there is tremendous work ahead. Reaching Parliament was only the first step. Now we have to employ our full intellectual, financial and professional qualifications in the service of our candidate to make her successful. That success will be the only guarantee for more women in Parliament and for a gradual change in society's attitudes towards women in politics.

Abla Amawi,
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The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Dead Sea scrolls, other artifacts enter Arab-Israeli dispute

By Arich O'Sullivan
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — When the Israeli army captured Bethlehem in 1967, an officer went straight to a well-known Arab antiquities dealer. He found a 2,100-year-old manuscript hidden under the floorboards and took it.

The manuscript, which described a Jewish temple, was part of the fabled Dead Sea scrolls and is one of many artifacts Israel has removed from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Palestinians want them back.

Custody of archaeological finds is legal quicksand internationally since most of those in most museums are from other countries, and many were plundered.

Israel signed a U.N. convention in 1954 that forbids excavation and removal of "cultural assets" by occupiers. But the capture of the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war provided access to the heart of the Jews' ancient kingdoms, and the Israelis have conducted "rescue excavations."

Amir Drori, head of the Antiquities Authority, said

Judea and Samaria, the Biblical names for the West Bank, as a Jewish nation."

He is cautious about the future, however, and said plans for dealing with antiquities in the occupied territories include turning over some sites to the Palestinians, sharing some and continued Israeli control over others. He would not name sites.

Israel Radio said the Antiquities Authority on Sunday launched a massive search for artifacts in the West Bank's Judean Desert and Jordan Valley. Nineteen teams of archaeologists were to be dispatched, including some trained to climb down ropes dangling from helicopters to reach desert caves.

Archaeology and other cultural issues are expected to come up for negotiation after more immediate concerns, such as security. The Palestinians are to start managing their own affairs, including tourism, by next spring.

"The talks have not developed far enough yet to discuss details like archaeology," said Hassan Abu Lida, who heads the team organizing Palestinian position papers on

autonomy. "There are more vital issues at the moment."

Israel uses archaeology to reinforce the rights of Jews to the land. Palestinians say they are the indigenous people and should own the artifacts.

"We consider even the Jewish past in this country as an absolute and obvious part of our history," said Nazmi Joubi, a Palestinian archaeologist and adviser to the peace negotiators. "The Palestinian culture is a mixture of tens of cultures that have occupied or invaded this land throughout history."

The Palestinians want the sarcophagi stolen by the late Gen. Moshe Dayan from Gaza Strip digs, mosaics taken from the floors of synagogues, the statues, coins, everything — including what many call the most important archaeological find of the century.

"Oh yes, we want the Dead Sea scrolls as well," Mr. Joubi said.

Those scrolls were found in caves near the Dead Sea between 1947 and 1956. Israel became their keeper in 1967.

Contained in them is the earliest known version of the Old Testament. The most important are in a special exhibit

at the National Israel Museum in Jerusalem, and others are stored in a vault at a Rockefeller Museum across town.

"They won't touch them in their dreams," Yaakov Meshorer, curator of the archaeology collection at Israel Museum, said of the Palestinians. "This isn't a matter of blood," he said, "but of culture."

About 30 per cent of the museum's artifacts are from the occupied territories.

Israelis feel the seven major scrolls are incontestably theirs because they were purchased between 1947 and 1954. But ownership of the temple scroll obtained in Bethlehem is less clear.

That scroll, the longest of all, provides an interpretation of the laws of Moses that differs from mainstream Judaism. It includes a description of how the temple should be built and of different Jewish festivals.

Israel eventually paid the Bethlehem antiquities dealer, Khalil Shabani, who died this year, \$105,000 for the scroll. It now is in the shrine of the book in Jerusalem.

Magen Broshi, curator of the scrolls, said Palestinians had demonstrated little affinity

for items from the Jewish period.

"Show me just one who can read the Dead Sea scrolls," he said. "It's been 45 years since their discovery, and there hasn't emerged one Arab or Palestinian scholar in the hundreds and perhaps thousands from around the world who can read them."

Israeli archaeologists believe a compromise would include the return of some artifacts, provided they are protected and all scholars have access to them. The Palestinians say they would not refuse such cooperation, but want complete authority.

Israel finished its withdrawal from Sinai in April 1982 and returned some artifacts excavated there to Egypt in December 1982. The rest of those artifacts are scheduled to be returned to Cairo by 1994.

Mr. Drori said the situation with the West Bank and Gaza Strip is different, since the occupied lands are not sovereign.

Israeli archaeologists fear that, once Palestinians assume control, archaeological sites will be bulldozed over for building or that plundering for profit will increase.

Experts say maintaining stable, secure Mideast is possible

By M.C. Jaspersen

WASHINGTON — Two Middle East experts agree that while establishing security and stability among Israelis and Palestinians will not be easy, it is certainly possible.

The two experts — Major General (Ret.) Shlomo Gazit,

senior research associate at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, and Ahmad S. Khalidi, editor-in-chief of the Journal for Palestine Studies and research fellow at Britain's Royal Institute for International Affairs — discussed Middle East peace concerns at a seminar sponsored by The Brookings Institution here Nov. 10.

"There will be no going back on what has been achieved... (The accord) symbolises a very fundamental, psychological, ideological turning point... for both parties."

Gen. Gazit said the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Sept. 13 was historic because "it has brought to an end 100 years of conflict, of hostility... of grievances and misunderstandings between Israelis and Palestinians."

"There will be no going back on what has been achieved on that day," Gen. Gazit said, because the accord "symbolises a very fundamental, psychological, ideological turning point... for both parties."

He said he was "astonished" that the two peoples reached an agreement on mutual recognition, especially since "Israel, without saying it, does understand that the next phase will be an independent, sovereign Palestinian state."

In turn, Gen. Gazit said, Israel "has received, for the first time from the Palestinians and the Arabs, recognition that Israel has the right to exist in the Middle East as a different... separate... entity," which differs ethnically, religiously and culturally.

the Washington peace talks and a delegate to the multilateral talks on arms control and regional security, agreed with Gen. Gazit on many points.

He added that while the Palestinians feel nothing less than a Palestinian homeland in the end will secure their future, "this does not mean... that we will be in a position of symmetry with Israel." Since Israel's power — economic strength, military might, and international links with other countries — would be "hard to match," the parity sought by Palestinians would make them "moral equals" if not material equals" of Israelis.

"Violence is still a factor, and it will be far, far more difficult to reeducate and to change attitudes and values. I am not happy about it, but we have to live with the facts."

The Palestinians intend to wait to attempt to negotiate statehood until the peace process is well advanced, Mr. Khalidi said. For the process to work, both Israelis and Palestinians will have to govern themselves "with no intervention from one side into the affairs of the other."

At the same time, Mr. Khalidi said, Israelis and Palestinians will have to coordinate the management of their security affairs.

He said he feared Israel may "want to see evidence — daily — of a very firm control of the Palestinians by the Palestinians." That could harm the process, because "we cannot demand that there be a stable regime, and at the same time say that the only way to deal with this is through brute force," Mr. Khalidi said.

"For the emergence of a stable regime, we need time" to phase in economic and social structures along with a police force, Mr. Khalidi added — United States Information Agency.

Amnesty says serious human rights violations in Iran

SERIOUS human rights violations persist in Iran, and there is mounting concern about the sharp increase in the number of Iranian opposition figures killed outside the country, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

In a new report, the organisation highlights the cases of victims of long-term imprisonment, unfair trial, torture and execution, many of them members of religious and ethnic minorities.

Amnesty International said: "Political prisoners have spent years in prison after unfair trials, and more are being condemned to join them every year. Real or imagined political opponents are targeted, along with the religious minorities, such as Baha'is and Christian converts, and members of ethnic minorities like Kurds, Baluchis and Arabs. Women have been flogged for

violating Islamic dress codes, prisoners have been tortured and political dissidents have been executed."

And the violations continue: as recently as last month a cartoonist, Manouchehr Karimzadieh, was given a ten-year prison sentence because of a cartoon he produced for Farad magazine in 1992, after a court overturned his previous sentence of one year imprisonment. He joins the ranks of other prisoners of conscience in Iran — Amnesty International is calling for all of them to be freed.

The new report also cites several cases of opposition activists from different political opposition groups, killed outside Iran in the last 18 months: Sadegh Sharafkandi, the secretary general of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI), and three others

were gunned down by masked gunmen in Berlin in May 1992. Prosecutors in Germany have charged that the ringleader of the attack was an agent of the Iranian secret service who received orders to carry out the killings from his superiors in Turkey in August.

According to Amnesty International, the pattern of attacks on opposition activists strongly suggests that at least some may have been victims of extrajudicial executions by Iranian government agents.

"The government's routine denial is hollow," said the organisation. "We know of no steps taken by the government to thoroughly investigate the alleged involvement of its officials in these killings."

"Many Iranians in exile live in constant fear of extrajudicial execution, a threat extended to non-Iranians too — such as the British writer, Sal-

man Rushdie, and individuals involved in publishing or translating his work, The Satanic Verses, which provoked a fatwa calling for his killing in February 1989.

"The government must take urgent action to improve its human rights record," Amnesty International said. "The cycle of violations has to be brought to an end if there is to be any hope for human rights in Iran."

Amnesty International's new report endorses recommendations to the Iranian government made by the Human Rights Committee — a body of international legal experts, which monitors states' parties implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights — in July 1993, aimed at bringing Iran's human rights law and practice into line with international standards — Amnesty International.

Despite oilman's release, no change in stance — U.S.

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States indicated Monday it would maintain its hardline against Iraq despite Baghdad's release of a U.S. oil worker who had been sentenced to eight years in prison.

"There has been nothing to indicate a change of attitude by Iraq," said White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers.

She reiterated White House calls for Iraq to abide by all U.N. resolutions stemming from the Gulf war ceasefire.

Oil worker Kenneth Beatty was released Monday following six months in prison after the personal intervention of Democratic U.S. Senator David Boren.

Mr. Beatty, 46, was sentenced to eight years in jail in May for illegally entering Iraq from Kuwait. He arrived in Jordan later Monday and flew home to the United States.

Mr. Beatty left for Washington aboard an executive jet in time to celebrate his 47th birthday with his wife and two daughters in Mustang, Oklaho-

ma, on Thursday.

Sen. Boren accompanied Mr. Beatty to the Jordanian capital.

King Hussein met Mr. Boren before their departure, officials said.

Mr. Beatty, who suffers from heart problems, was sentenced to eight years in jail for illegally entering Iraq from Kuwait.

"It feels great to be here," Mr. Beatty told reporters in Amman. "There are so many people for me to thank. I do not know where to start."

The Oklahoma oilman appeared fit and in good spirits after travelling with Mr. Boren to Amman from the Iraqi border aboard a Jordanian army helicopter.

An Iraqi statement said President Saddam Hussein had ordered Mr. Beatty's release in response to a request from Mr. Boren and other leading Americans.

Mr. Beatty was head of exploration for California-based Santa Fe Oil Co. His release had been sought on humanita-

rian grounds on account of heart problems.

After the release Iraqi radio read off letters from prominent U.S. figures including former President Jimmy Carter, former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and numerous congressmen.

Mr. Beatty's release was widely seen as a goodwill gesture by President Saddam, who is striving to lift the crippling U.N. sanctions and be allowed to start exporting oil again.

The United Nations Security Council was expected to review the sanctions next week. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz was scheduled to

open talks with U.N. officials in New York on Nov. 22.

Mr. Boren told reporters in Amman that he appealed Mr. Beatty's release during a meeting with Mr. Aziz on Sunday. But he stressed that his mission was "purely personal humanitarian in nature" and had no bearing on U.S. policy towards Iraq.

"So that there will be no misunderstanding of the nature of my mission, let me... stress that I carried no messages from my government to the government of Iraq. I received no messages to be delivered back and I undertook no negotiation of other matters..." he said.

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CBJ governor details Jordan's expected monetary role in the occupied territories

Amman seeks better terms for reopening branches of banks

banks and financial institutions as well as moneychanging companies, assess credit volume and supervise the supply and other money-related operations in the land that will be under the self-rule authority.

B) The committee will study the alternative to establish a central Palestinian monetary institution to assume responsibility at an adequate time.

C) Authorising the CBJ to organise the reopening of branches (of Jordanian banks) closed in 1967 as well as moneychangers and other financial institutions during the interim period. The CBJ will supervise the operations of the branches in accordance with Jordanian legislations currently in force.

D) The joint committee will lay down the arrangements to license branches for new

shares on the Amman Financial Market and to cooperate in setting up a Palestinian stock exchange.

E) To cooperate and participate in setting up specialised development banks in the areas of housing, industry and agriculture and to speed up the establishment of a Palestinian Development Bank.

Dr. Nabulsi said the CBJ had rejected a request by a Jordanian bank to reopen its branches in the occupied territories despite the approval by the Israeli authorities because the CBJ wanted to organise the entire procedure whereby all Jordanian banks which closed in 1967 could reopen their branches "under the framework of a single comprehensive umbrella."

He said Cairo-Amman Bank, which reopened in the West Bank in 1987, was functioning under very strict and

before submitting an application to the Israeli authority, which undertakes not to license any bank the CBJ disapproves of.

F) Israel will adopt the Basic Committee accord known as the Concordat as the frame-work to organise and supervise the branches while the CBJ will carry the responsibilities of ensuring the financial sufficiency and liquidity of the banks at home.

G) The CBJ will bear the responsibility of supervising the branches and conducting inspection on them.

H) This understanding ceases upon handing over the banking responsibilities in the occupied territories to the Palestinian authority.

I) Dr. Nabulsi said that, based on the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles, Israel was seeking to consolidate the economic

that could have damaged the interests of the Jordanians and Palestinians by allowing the Israelis five more years to tighten the ties between the Israeli economy and the Palestinian economy," Dr. Nabulsi explained.

J) The second choice, he pointed out, was to embark on building a solid economic base with the occupied territories in the interim period so as to develop strong long-term ties.

K) The challenge in the second alternative is the tightrope approach which should be adopted to avoid dealing with the Israeli economy before concluding a peace accord," the governor said.

L) Since Jordan chose to adopt the second alternative and started to implement its objective, Dr. Nabulsi specified the following three dimensions which are seen as

tremendously disastrous were not correct in their views.

M) He stressed that Jordan's role aims primarily at confronting the Israeli attempt to intensify its domination of the economy of the occupied territories and to use it as a way to penetrate the region.

N) Jordan also wants to help the Palestinians resist Israeli pressure for economic gains in exchange for what it sees as political concessions.

O) According to Dr. Nabulsi, Jordan is also trying to avoid having its role marginalised both in the economic arrangements for the occupied territories or in the regional arrangements being formulated within the framework of the peace process.

P) The governor sought to allay fears about the possibility of a large reduction in foreign currency reserves that may trigger dangerous pressures.

Q) "Inflation depends primarily on monetary expansion

and that is an organised withdrawal that would protect the interests of both sides.

R) In fact, we are now coordinating with the Palestinian side to put in place an acceptable mechanism to be used when necessary for this purpose," he said.

S) The possibility of high inflation crossing from the occupied territories to Jordan is likely but, according to Dr. Nabulsi, its impact would most probably be limited.

T) He explained that aid earmarked for the occupied territories would largely be in kind and only a portion of cash aid would be changed for dinars. Moreover, he said, possible "imported inflation" would depend on the products and the volume of trade between Jordan and the occupied territories.

U) "Inflation depends primarily on monetary expansion

and fits as banks utilise their high liquidity in rebuilding the territories thereby relieving the CBJ from the burden of absorbing the excess cash.

V) Expanding the money market as Jordanian bonds, certificates of deposits and treasury bills would be available in the occupied territories.

W) Increased activity at the Amman Financial Market as a result of the addition of shares of Palestinian companies.

X) About 500 prominent businessmen attended the economic gathering which was the eleventh organised by the Jordanian Businessmen Association.

Russia tightens credit rules

MOSCOW (R) — Russia has issued resolutions tightening the rules on awarding state credits and allocating export quotas to companies, ITAR-TASS news agency has said.

All decisions on issuing federal credits would be taken by an "authorised state body" and require the approval of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Requests for such credits would have to be submitted to the government via its commission for credit policy, one of the resolutions said.

A separate resolution said that decisions on export quotas would be adopted by another government commission and requests for such quotas would be submitted through the economics ministry, headed by leading reformer Yegor Gaidar.

Until now, policy on export quotas has been the domain of the foreign trade ministry, which has seen its role cut back in recent months following criticism of its performance and allegations of official corruption.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 17, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

"The Sun conjuncts Pluto and the Moon conjuncts Neptune and Uranus bringing new information into the open about singer-dancer Michael Jackson. See that accumulated work gets completed timely."

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find that matters beneath your own roof require more than usual attention during the daytime but the evening is fine for entertaining at home.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever you have in mind in communications with others requires you approach from an awareness of other persons desires tonight make visits to see pals.

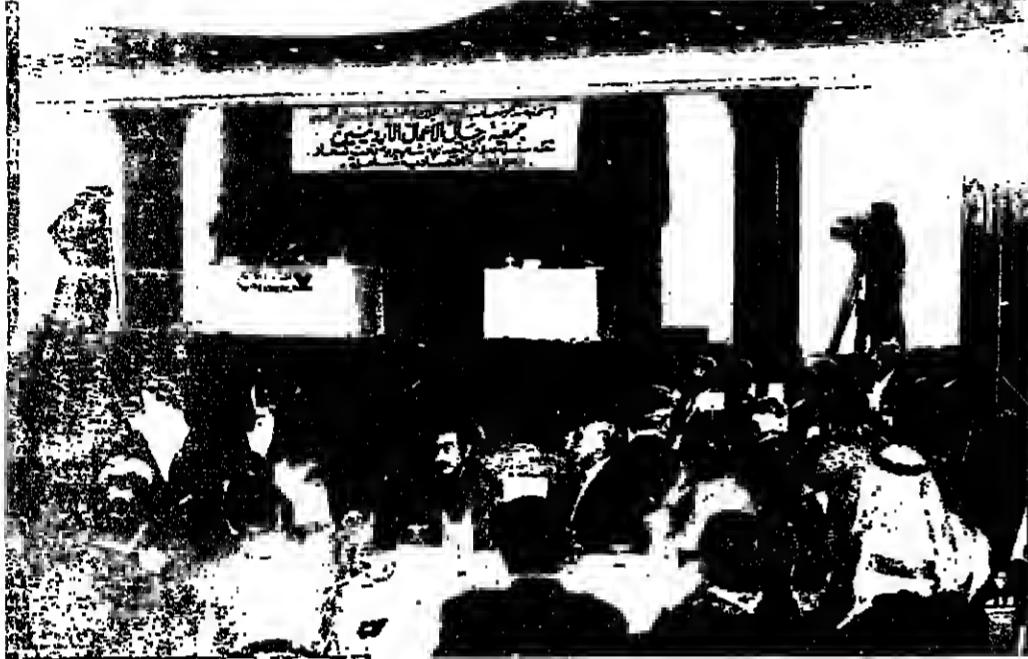
GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be sure you are correct before you make any complaint about some account but later you know how to act with business persons so good relationships follow.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can have wrong ideas early about how to get your own personal longings but later conditions break and happiness becomes yours.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Conditions come to light about an associate that are upsetting but can be ironed out so that in the evening a new accord can then exist.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You want to fly off and leave some duties unfinished but it could have adverse effect and by being steadfast you get big benefits your way.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) It will not be until evening that you are able to enjoy yourself as you wish so make a point to get into cleaning up what is confusing at first.



Businessmen listen to Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi speak about "The Monetary and Banking Aspects of the Peace Talks."

Jordanian banks as well as licensing national Arab and foreign banks. These branches will also be under the CBJ supervision.

E) The two sides will arrange an appendix protocol regarding the foreign currency deposits of the Palestinian authority and the means to utilise it for import and external payments. Also, the Palestinian authority will have the right to issue internal debentures.

F) The Jordanian dinar will continue to be used and circulated in Palestine throughout the interim period.

G) The two sides are to cooperate to safeguard the exchange rate stability of the Jordanian dinar.

H) Prepare studies and arrangements to enable the Palestinian public shareholding companies and joint establishments trade their

rigid Israeli terms and the CBJ was seeking fairer and easier conditions whereby Jordanian banks can function more freely in accordance with Jordanian supervision regulations.

I) To achieve this end, Dr. Nabulsi said, negotiations started late last year but, despite the progress achieved, there has not been a final agreement yet.

J) He pointed out that the negotiations to reopen the branches of Jordanian banks sought two documents: One on reopening and sustaining the operations of the branches and the other on the licensing of banks wanting to open branches.

K) According to the CBJ chief, following are the main points agreed upon with the Israeli side:

L) A Jordanian bank wishing to open a branch must have a CBJ approval

ties with the Palestinian economy during the interim period.

M) The articles and appendices of the agreement have put considerable obstacles that left the Palestinians little room to freely manage their economic affairs, Dr. Nabulsi said.

N) As such, he added, Jordan was faced with two choices in the area of organising its economic ties with the occupied territories during the interim period.

O) The first choice was for Jordan to remain indifferent for five years without establishing any economic ties with the occupied territories because of the absence of an independent Palestinian decision and the difficulty in differentiating between dealings with the occupied territories and Israel.

P) Dr. Nabulsi examined the advantages and disadvantages of the Jordanian monetary and banking role in the occupied territories, noting that those who see it extremely rewarding or ex-

plains on the dinar saying:

Q) "The possible risk of having large sums of Jordanian money supply in the occupied territories outside CBJ control is no cause for major concern as the CBJ will be authorised to implement its monetary and banking control in the occupied territories.

R) Also, there will be a supply of foreign currency that will be added to the reserves against the possible currency expansion in the occupied territories."

S) He dismissed concerns over the possibility that the Jordanian dinar could be replaced in a one big dump for political reasons will cause a currency collapse in Jordan.

T) "Such a possibility is very limited because its consequences will not affect Jordan alone," he said, adding that what is more probable, should a replacement become

sion and that is largely under the control of the CBJ within the structural adjustment programme being implemented," the governor stressed.

U) The difference in the economic requirements for the occupied territories were not seen as a cause of concern by the CBJ chief since "prudent monetary policy should first and foremost in all cases achieve currency stability."

V) "As such, the considerations for the drawing of and implementing the monetary policy are to a great extent similar to both Jordanian and Palestinian economists," Dr. Nabulsi said. However, he assured his audience that Jordan would continue to implement the structural adjustment programme and would consult with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the monetary and banking role in the occupied territories.

BIRTHSTONES FOR NOVEMBER

TOPAZ — TIGER EYE

Available in gold, silver and diamonds

DAZI

THE Daily Crossword



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solution

JUMBLE THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME by Harry Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LUTIG

GOSGY

EUT'OE

SIBOPH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: LUCID WEIGH ERMINIE GIBLET

Answer: What the cops did with the barbecue thief — GRILLED HIM

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

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Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: LUCID WEIGH ERMINIE GIBLET

Answer: What the cops did with the barbecue thief — GR

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKETS						
BROKER BANK CENTER		AMMAN - JORDANIA TELEPHONE: 660170 / 661170 ORGANIZED MONEY SWISS PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 16/11/1993				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE	PRICE
BROKER BANK	147,780	178,500	177,000	176,000		
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000		
BANK OF JORDAN	5,142	5,150	5,000	5,000		
INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT BANK	5,142	5,150	5,000	5,000		
THE HEDGING BANK	5,142	5,150	5,000	5,000		
JORDAN FEDERAL BANK	11,003	5,620	5,600	5,600		
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	14,178	3,060	3,000	2,030		
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	5,511	4,400	4,150	4,150		
BUSINESS BANK	5,115	4,300	4,200	4,200		
GENERAL BANK FOR INDUSTRY & AGRICULTURE	5,076	4,250	4,150	4,150		
JORDAN PENSION INVESTMENT BANK	5,047	4,200	4,150	4,150		
JOHNSON PENSION INSURANCE	18,335	3,970	2,970	2,970		
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	6,000	1,220	1,200	1,200		
ADAS INTERNATIONAL LTD.	4,242	4,200	4,000	4,000		
JORDAN TOWNSHIP 4 SPA COMPLEX	16,797	1,150	1,110	1,100		
JORDAN TRADING & INVESTMENT HOLDING	7,444	1,910	1,850	1,810		
JORDAN TRADING & INVESTMENT HOLDING	6,470	1,150	1,100	1,100		
UNITED HIGHER EDUCATION TRADING CENTER	95	1,820	1,900	1,900		
UNIVERSITY FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	15,987	2,000	2,000	2,000		
THE JORDAN CREDIT FACTORING	4,412	2,950	2,950	2,950		
JOHNSON PENSION INSURANCE	380	21,650	22,350	22,350		
JOHNSON PENSION INSURANCE	1,700	3,150	3,000	2,000		
JORDAN TAILING	2,013	9,600	9,600	9,600		
JORDAN TRADING & INVESTMENT	5,088	2,420	2,150	2,150		
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL 5 AGRICULTURAL	11,720	1,150	1,100	1,100		
JORDAN MONSTER MILLS	14,796	6,300	5,150	5,050		
JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	6,470	10,750	10,750	10,750		
JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING	509	1,150	3,000	1,000		
JORDAN PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	2,650	2,770	2,650	2,650		
JORDAN PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	4,420	6,450	6,410	6,410		
JORDAN PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	3,120	3,380	2,300	2,250		
JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING & TRADING	4,213	5,150	5,050	5,050		
JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING & TRADING	5,000	6,400	6,300	6,300		
JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING & TRADING	4,420	5,150	5,050	5,050		
JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING & TRADING	5,082	1,380	1,350	1,350		
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	280	3,700	3,600	3,600		
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	5,181	3,150	3,110	3,060		
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	10,250	6,200	6,100	6,100		
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	29,703	1,210	1,180	1,180		
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	15,284	1,210	1,180	1,180		
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	5,181	3,150	3,110	3,060		
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	12,548	3,100	3,070	3,010		
JOHNSON KREDIT CO. FOR AGRIC & FOOD PROD.	12,548	3,100	3,070	3,010		
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	12,548	3,100	3,070	3,010		
GERALD TOTAL	736,211					
NO. OF TRADE COMPANIES IN PARALLEL MARKET	101570					
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	100252					

Lamfalussy says EC could miss 1997 currency date

BRUSSELS (R) — Alexandre Lamfalussy, chosen to guide the EC on the next leg of its journey to a single currency, said the bloc was unlikely to meet its 1997 target date but, some countries could strike private deals.

"That date seems improbable but what is not improbable is arrangements such as between the Germans and Dutch," Mr. Lamfalussy, picked by European Community (EC) leaders as the first president of an embryo Community central bank, said.

"That is not monetary union but it is something close to it," he told a European Parliament committee hearing.

EC finance ministers bowed to more than a year of market

pressure on Aug. 2 when they widened the permitted fluctuation bands within the exchange rate mechanism (ERM), the Community's currency grid, to 15 per cent from 2.25 or six per cent.

But the Dutch and Germans reached a private deal to keep their currencies moving within just 2.25 per cent of each other, prompting speculation that others might try to follow suit.

To date there has been no agreement on reforming the ERM, which is intended to guide the EC to its single currency central bank.

Mr. Lamfalussy hoped it would be possible to move back towards the narrower bands but could not say when.

The German chancellor is "flying home with a full suitcase," the Chinese premier remarked.

As Mr. Li and Mr. Kohl watched, the two delegations then signed contracts for a German consortium led by Siemens and EC to construct an underground railway (U.S. subway) in Guangzhou, Chinese Premier Li Peog said.

The deals comprised contracts worth \$1.7 billion, as well as letters of intent and initial agreements worth \$950 million, Mr. Li said during a meeting with Mr. Kohl and German business leaders in the Great Hall of the People.

The contracts are worth 700 million marks (\$411 million) and 800 million marks (\$473 million) respectively, German

Lebanon to regain financial role, central bank chief says

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's new central bank chief said Tuesday capital was returning to the country faster than expected and he believed Lebanon could regain its pre-war position as a regional financial centre.

Riad Salameh, who became governor of the Bank of Lebanon on Aug. 1, said in an interview with Reuters Television that nearly half the \$7 billion which fled Lebanon during the 1975-90 civil war had returned.

Some \$1 billion returned to the country within a month of Mr. Hariri's appointment, he said. Aggregate bank deposits increased by another \$1.5 billion in the first nine months of this year.

"This trend is very encouraging because we were experiencing slow recovery," Mr. Salameh said.

The government planned full economic recovery by

next three years," Mr. Salameh said.

Mr. Salameh, a 43-year-old former senior vice-president of Merrill Lynch in Paris, said the biggest factor in restoring investor confidence was the October 1992 appointment of billionaire businessman Rafik Al Hariri as prime minister.

Some \$1 billion returned to the country within a month of Mr. Hariri's appointment, he said. Aggregate bank deposits increased by another \$1.5 billion in the first nine months of this year.

"This trend is very encouraging because we were experiencing slow recovery," Mr. Salameh said.

The government planned full economic recovery by

The flow of incoming capital was going mainly into the real estate sector, while performance was "impressive," and into treasury bills, Mr. Salameh said.

"Full recovery is possible without peace with Israel but it will take a longer time," Mr. Salameh said.

He said gross domestic product grew 12 per cent in 1992 and he expected about 10 per cent this year. "The aim is to sustain 8-10 per cent over the next five years."

Inflation is currently 3.5 per cent on a year-on-year basis.

Mr. Salameh reintroduced the Beirut dollar market on Sept. 1 to try to regain Beirut's pre-war position as a regional centre for dollar placements. The market now exceeded \$200 million.

The central bank also created a secondary market in treasury bills and introduces swaps on Sept. 1. The value of treasury bills issued in Lebanese pounds was now \$3 billion, he said.

Other steps to develop and recapitalise the banking sector included a recent law to facilitate mergers among the 70 odd banks. The central bank would eventually finance some mergers.

A law was also planned to let banks to start fiduciary activities and diversify into consultancy and investment vehicles.

The government also proposed to slash corporate income tax from 35 per cent to 10 per cent — "which cannot be matched by any country in the region," Mr. Salameh said.

"These specific and unique features are the basis on which Lebanon, I believe, will rebuild its position as a financial centre in the region," he said.

China, Germany sign deals worth \$2.65b

BEIJING (AFP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl Tuesday led a German delegation to sign business deals with China worth some \$2.65 billion, including the building of an underground railway (U.S. subway) in Guangzhou, Chinese Premier Li Peog said.

The deals comprised contracts worth \$1.7 billion, as well as letters of intent and initial agreements worth \$950 million, Mr. Li said during a meeting with Mr. Kohl and German business leaders in the Great Hall of the People.

Figures for the value of deals varied, however.

German Economy Minister Guenter Rexrodt said all the contracts signed so far, plus letters of intent for other deals, amounted to around three billion marks (\$1.76 billion).

In addition, there were other

sources said. Half of the financing for the Guangzhou contract will be provided by German development loans.

Protocols on the environment and science and technology cooperation were also signed.

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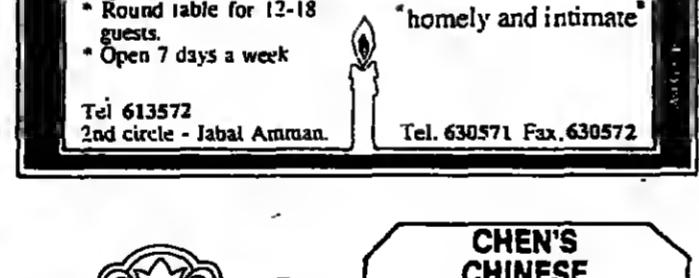
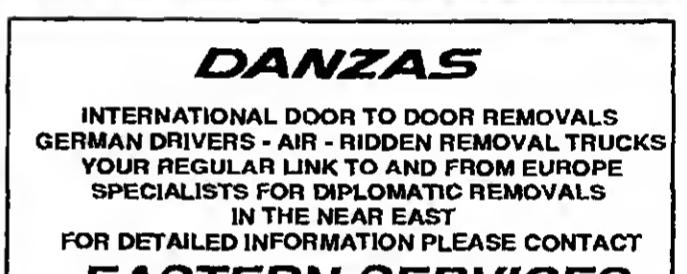
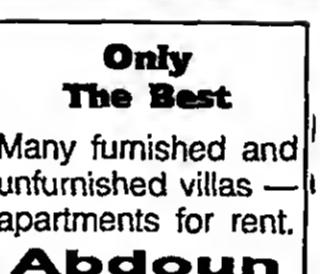
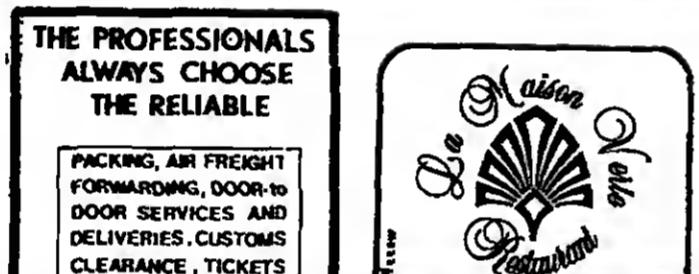
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steps to develop and recapitalise the banking sector included a recent law to facilitate mergers among the 70 odd banks. The central bank would eventually finance some mergers.

A law was also planned to let

banks to start fiduciary activities and diversify into consultancy and investment vehicles.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE



Croats launch massive attack in Bosnia; new aid talks planned

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Some 4,000 Croat troops took part in a massive tank and helicopter-backed HVO offensive on the government-held central Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf, a U.N. Protection Force spokesman said Tuesday.

Croat gunners sent down a barrage of some 550 heavy artillery shells on the town, 70 kilometres west of Sarajevo, said UNPROFOR spokesman Lt.-Col. Bill Aikman.

Up to 15 tanks took part in the attack, which followed weekend reprieves by U.N. military officials that Bosnian Serbs had been running a "root-a-tack" operation for Croat forces in the Croat-controlled Kiseljak pocket.

British U.N. troops in the area took to their bunkers because of the severity of the barrage, and only emerged around 3:00 p.m. (1400 GMT) when the offensive was halted, Col. Aikman added.

Croat forces used a helicopter to spot artillery targets and troops movement along the 13-kilometre (eight-mile) front by the mainly Muslim Bosnian army, said Col. Aikman.

But despite the concerted assault government groups had held their line, he said. Gornji Vakuf was reported calm Tuesday morning, he added.

The town occupies a strategic position on supply routes linking northern and southern Bosnia, secure con-

trol of which would enable the land-locked Bosnian army to resupply and re-equip its embattled forces.

It could also help it resupply its forces in embattled towns in the largely Croat-held south of the country, notably Mostar.

Fojnica, 45 kilometres west of Sarajevo, and nearby Bakovici where Canadian and Danish U.N. troops are caring for some 600 mental and disabled adults and children, was reported quiet Monday, the spokesman said.

The town, scene of bitter fighting between Bosnian army and HVO units at the weekend, remained in Bosnian control but Bakovici has been captured by HVO troops.

U.N. Military Observers (UNMOS) reported Monday that two Roman Catholic priests had been found murdered at the Franciscan monastery in Fojnica, said Col. Aikman.

They had been shot several times and appeared to have been dead for several days. Bosnian authorities took their bodies to Visoko, some 15 kilometres to the east, for post-mortem examination, he said.

The HVO called on UNPROFOR and the U.N. military and civilian police to visit the murder scene, but they were denied access by Bosnian troops, Col. Aikman added. They were due to try again

Tuesday.

In Sarajevo, the government condemned the murders and promised to investigate the deaths.

Col. Aikman said Bosnian Serbs had again shelled the Olovo area, north of Sarajevo, Monday, while Sarajevo Radio said the Serb offensive is the area was continuing Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, in the Croatian capital of Zagreb U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Peter Kessler said a UNHCR convoy taking aid to the mental patients in hospitals at Fojnica and Bakovici had left Zenica, 40 kilometres north of those two towns.

He said the eight-truck convoy bearing food and fuel for electric generators was expected to arrive at its destination later in the day, despite the fighting in the area.

Mr. Kessler said only 1,000 to 2,000 people were still in Fojnica, which had a total population of 16,000 before the war. During the fighting they take refuge in the surrounding hills, returning at night to the town.

Bosnia's three warring factions plan to attend a meeting organised by the UNHCR in order to guarantee aid convoys' safe passage throughout Bosnia, a UNHCR spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Sylvana Foa said Bosnia

President Alija Izetbegovic, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his military strongman Ratko Mladic have indicated they will attend the Thursday meeting.

Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban and several other Bosnian Croat officials also plan to be there and Bosnia's Vice President Ejup Ganic said Monday that his government would send a representative.

Ms. Foa said U.N. High Commissioner Sakado Ogata has convened the "last chance" meeting in order to press all of the warring parties to end "their political and military games" and ensure the survival of three million people entirely dependent on humanitarian aid during the upcoming winter months.

She said the UNHCR needs unconditional guarantees for the safe passage of its convoys and for emergency medical evacuations.

She said one example of the obstacles the UNHCR encounters in Bosnia was illustrated Tuesday morning when Serb troops besieging Sarajevo at the last minute decided to impose new conditions to allow the evacuation of 50 patients from the capital.

Aid convoys to central Bosnia were suspended three weeks ago when a Danish truck driver was killed in a mortar attack the U.N. has blamed on the Bosnian army.



Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is congratulated by special parliamentary committee members after his new election bill was passed at the committee session of the Lower House Tuesday (AFP photo)

Kashmir mosque siege ends peacefully

SRINAGAR, India (R) — A month-long standoff between Indian troops and Muslim militants holed up inside Kashmir's boldest mosque ended peacefully when the guerrillas surrendered before dawn Tuesday, officials said.

They said 65 people, including an unspecified number of militants, left the white marble buildings of the Hazratbal Shrine in two batches between one and 2:30 a.m. (1930-2100 GMT).

India's Doordarshan state-run television showed film of men apparently filing out of the compound, bundled in capes and blankets against the sub-zero winter temperatures. Doordarshan quoted Kashmir's police chief, Mahendra Sabbarwal, as saying they had surrendered and been detained by local police for questioning.

"Good sense has finally prevailed," Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said in a statement.

India's Doordarshan state-run television showed film of men apparently filing out of the compound, bundled in capes and blankets against the sub-zero winter temperatures. Doordarshan quoted Kashmir's police chief, Mahendra Sabbarwal, as saying they had surrendered and been detained by local police for questioning.

"Good sense has finally prevailed," Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said in a statement.

Independent confirmation of the surrender was not immediately available and it was not clear if a deal had been done with the government. There was no initial comment from militant groups or political parties.

The siege has fuelled a four-year-old uprising, against Indian rule in the Himalayan state, the only Muslim majority region in mainly Hindu India. Police and hospital sources say at least 13,000 people have been killed in the rebellion.

The Hazratbal area remained under indefinite curfew Tuesday morning. Only a few journalists from state-run media were allowed to witness the exodus.

It was not clear how many of the 65 inmates from the shrine, on the shores of Srinagar's Dal Lake, were armed militants, nor whether any were foreign nationals. Officials have claimed there were at least two Pakistanis inside.

India accused Pakistan of arming and training Kashmiri militants, a charge Islamabad denies.

Doordarshan showed film of one man, apparently an inmate, who said he came from the third of Kashmir under Pakistani rule.

Officials said a large haul of arms including rifles, grenades and rocket launchers was recovered from the shrine complex.

The army siege of the mosque began at midnight on Oct. 15.

The government said it acted to foil an alleged plot to steal or destroy the shrine's relic, a hair believed by Kashmiris to be from the beard of the Prophet Mohammad. The mysterious week-long disappearance of the hair in 1963 sparked major riots.

But officials and army officers said privately they wanted to trap a guerrilla leader they wrongly believed was inside.

Officials said Muslim clerics entered the mosque Tuesday morning and confirmed the relic was safe.

The shrine was expected to open to the public again by Thursday, Doordarshan said.

Political analysts said the fact that the inmates were held by local police rather than the army suggested a deal with the government. India's Central Security Forces regard Kashmiri police with suspicion, saying they may sympathise with the uprising.

Curator doubts authenticity of Rembrandt

WASHINGTON (R) — A curator of the National Gallery of Art says two more of the museum's "authentic" Rembrandts were not painted by the Dutch master but are the work of his students, a newspaper said Monday. Legal

Times said curator Arthur Wheelock, a foremost authority on Rembrandt Van Rijn, said two of the gallery's Rembrandts — "Joseph Accused By Potiphar's Wife" and "A Woman Holding A Pink" — were works by the master's pupils.

In a continuing reevaluation of the gallery's Rembrandts, another painting labelled a real Rembrandt, "An Old Lady With A Book," was now deemed by wheelock a joint creation by Rembrandt and a student, said the Washington-based paper, which covers legal matters. In the article by independent art writer Murray White, it was learned Mr. Wheelock's investigation also found a Rembrandt in the gallery called "A Polish Nobleman," was not that of a Polish nobleman but a self-portrait. Van Rijn, who lived from 1606 to 1669, had as many as 100 or more students and assistants while running a large studio in Amsterdam. Because of the large number of Rembrandt pupils, art detectives have been trying for years to differentiate between Rembrandts by the master and Rembrandt copycats by his pupils.

Pfeiffer weds, christens child

MOSCOW (R) — Michelle Pfeiffer left the Age of Innocence over the weekend, marrying writer David Kelley.

Pfeiffer, who has played Catwoman in Batman Returns and a sultry cabaret singer in The Fabulous Baker Boys, followed the wedding in Santa Barbara, California, with the christening of her son, a child she adopted eight months ago. A statement said the couple had a small, private wedding, attended by family and close friends. Pfeiffer has won praise for her role in The Age of Innocence, in which she plays a New Yorker who returns to what she finds to be a stifling society after years abroad.

2-legged dog makes another comeback

GREENFIELD, Iowa (AP) — Rusty isn't supposed to overexert himself, but the sight of the cow was too much. "Grrr."

The cow whirled to face its tormenter, then relaxed, perhaps sensing that a little dog with only one good leg wasn't a threat. Rusty limped closer, leaned on a fence post and growled again, more to stay in practice than to challenge. The cow layed away.

"He's some dog," said owner Bill Davis, 39. "Right after that first accident, he showed he had a will to live. He's not ready to die yet." In fact, Rusty seems to be recovering nicely from his second accident. But even if he recovers completely, he'll still have just two good legs. His story has travelled worldwide over the years — "I've got a call from Australia last time," said Davis — and scores of children write him letters. "If I had an extra leg, I'd give it to you," wrote David Gersemi of the Miller Middle School in Marshalltown. "But I don't, so I'm sorry." Rusty is an 8-year-old, 40-pound (18-kilo) Australian red beeler who spends most of his time with Davis, who spends most of his time farming 600 rented acres (243 hectares) of gently billy land about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southwest of Des Moines. That's where the farm dog ran in front of Davis' mower four years ago. Rusty lost half of his left front leg and the pad from his left rear leg, leaving a skinny sumo on which he catches his balance. Remarkably, Rusty learned to walk and run, even to jump into the pickup, using just the two right legs. Then the second accident happened Sept. 19 when Davis put ice cubes on the ground for Rusty to enjoy — too near to a neighbour's pickup. As the neighbour moved the truck, Rusty's good right rear leg was run over. "I knew it was broken," said Davis. There were three major fractures below the knee. Davis took the dog to Dr. Phil Pearson, small-animal orthopedic surgeon at Iowa State University, who installed four pins through the leg to hold the bones together. Davis hopes Rusty will regain his agility once the wounds have healed. "Boy, that little devil could run," Davis said.

Yeltsin meets with regional leaders

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin met with a number of regional government leaders Tuesday in the town of Tula, 200 kilometres south of here, Interfax News Agency said.

"I invited heads of administrations so they could see the example set by the Tula region in finding 'solutions to the problem of conversion' — military hardware to peaceful use," Interfax quoted Mr. Yeltsin as saying on arrival.

He also visited the former home of author Leo Tolstoy, now a museum, and was to inspect an air force base at Tuva.

Mr. Yeltsin was last in the region in last August, when he inspected divisions of guards charged with defending Mos-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Polls: Clinton approval at 49%

WASHINGTON (R) — A new public opinion poll has found President Bill Clinton's approval rating slipping below 50 percent for the first time since August. The ABC-Washington Post poll gave Mr. Clinton a 49 per cent approval rating, down three points from a similar survey taken two weeks before. Forty-five per cent of those surveyed said they disapproved of the way Mr. Clinton was doing his job. The telephone poll of 1,218 Americans had a 3 per cent margin of error. Asked about Mr. Clinton's handling of the economy, 43 per cent said they approved while 50 per cent disapproved. On foreign policy, only 39 per cent approved while 53 per cent disapproved. The poll found that support for Mr. Clinton's health care reform programme was slipping. Forty-six per cent said they approved of the plan and 43 per cent said they disapproved. Asked whether Congress should pass Mr. Clinton's health legislation, six per cent said it should pass it without changes, 42 per cent said it should pass it with minor changes and 29 per cent said pass it with major changes. Only 17 per cent said the Congress should not pass any of the reform.

Russia releases pictures of jet downing

WASHINGTON (R) — Russia has given the United States pictures of the downing of an U.S. C-130 aircraft by Soviet jets in 1958, former U.S. ambassador to Moscow Malcolm Toon said Monday. Mr. Toon is a member of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA. He said he and other U.S. members of the commission were given the pictures at a meeting in Moscow this September. The pictures, released by the Pentagon Monday night, show four Soviet MiG-17 jets shooting down the C-130 over Armenia on Sept. 2, 1958, and also show wreckage of the plane on the ground after it crashed and burned. The C-130 had a crew of 17. There were no known survivors. Mr. Toon said he and other commission members visited the crash site in Armenia. He said six sets of remains had been found and were returned to the United States and five have been identified so far. Mr. Toon said the Russians have been extremely cooperative in trying to provide information about Americans missing in the cold war, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Sri Lankan rebels pound army camp

COLOMBO (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas Tuesday shelled a military camp recaptured by security forces after a battle that left over 1,000 people dead, security sources said. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) used a 120-mm artillery gun on the Pooneryn army camp from where they captured the heavy weapon during a three-day battle last week, the sources said. "Several soldiers manning bunkers at Pooneryn were injured. But the shells did not cause much damage because of the sandy terrain," the source said. Meanwhile, the air force kept bombing suspected LTTE targets in the rebel-held northern Jaffna peninsula and the northern part of mainland Sri Lanka where Tigers are known to have bases. Tamil sources said an aircraft hit a hospital in the northern Kilinochchi region Monday, killing three mothers and their new born babies.

Human rights must accompany development — Asia Watch

SEATTLE (R) — The human rights group Asia Watch said Wednesday that countries bad to protect human rights at the same time as they developed their economies or else they risked alienating their citizens.

In a report issued to coincide with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit meeting in Seattle, the group rejected the idea that economic development would necessarily cause political violence.

"It would be a major mistake to accept the argument that economic development would inevitably lead to positive political change," Mike Jendrzejczyk, Washington director of Human Rights Watch/Asia Watch, said in a statement.

"It may be true that some time in the distant future, economic reform in China, Indonesia and Vietnam will lead to greater freedom, but it doesn't help the thousands of people in prison now."

The report, "human rights in the APEC region," argued that economic development

sometimes, as in the case of China, brought about further repression.

In China, "continued commitment to economic reform was accompanied by increased political repression, as China's leaders expressed a determination not to let the reforms affect (Communist) Party control, and any signs of dissent were quickly crushed," it said.

China's human rights record will be an issue when President Bill Clinton meets China's head of state, Jiang Zemin, during the APEC summit.

The Asia Watch report analysed the human rights situation in most of the dynamic APEC economies and in several Asian countries, like Vietnam and Burma, that are not members of the organisation.

It had harsh words for many, including the United States.

It said the United States had been slow to recognise Japan's potential to promote human rights.

It also mentioned human rights problems in Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, which is not an APEC nation.

The group said China "continued to arrest, detain and interfere peaceful critics and to interfere with the freedom of expression, assembly and religion."

It said China had made no effort to repeal or revise the national security law which restricted the rights of freedom of expression and association.

The group said the United States had been slow to recognise Japan's potential to promote human rights.

It said Korea had made no effort to repeal or revise the national security law which restricted the rights of freedom of expression and association.

The group noted that Malaysia championed an

"Asian concept of human rights" which rejected the Western idea that individual rights were key.

It also mentioned human rights problems in Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, which is not an APEC nation.

China and the United States are likely to strike deals during this week's Asia trade conference that will let each side gain success, U.S. and Chinese sources said Monday.

President Clinton's meeting with Chinese head of state Jiang Zemin here may resolve two key points of friction, the sources said.

The issues are sanctions imposed on Beijing for alleged missile sales and China's blocking of U.S. investigations into exports of Chinese prison-made goods, the sources said.

Concerned that a new U.S. effort to improve relations may give Beijing a mixed message, however, more than 200 members of Congress have signed a letter to Clinton emphasising that China's human rights situation must be improved, they said.

The offer would be conditional on China clearly agreeing to restrict weapons proliferation in future, the sources said.

U.S. companies that want badly to export the satellites and related equipment covered under the ban imposed in August have put the administration under a lot of pressure to lift the sanctions.

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1993 9

Argentina gears up for crucial Australia tie



Argentine national coach Alfio Basile (right) gives (2nd from right) during the team's last practice session before their World Cup qualifying game against Australia (AFP photo)

Maradona will be back in the side Wednesday after shrugging off a leg injury picked up in the first leg.

"This is going to be the biggest match of my life," he told a TV reporter. "I wouldn't miss it for the world. I'll be there giving everything I've got to make sure we qualify."

Basile is likely to include veteran stopper Oscar Ruggeri and Diego Simeone — both suspended for the first leg — to bolster his defence and midfield.

Although a 0-0 draw will be enough for the home side following their away goal they will not be under-estimating the opposition.

The Australian squad, who arrived in Buenos Aires Sunday night after playing two warm-up matches in Chile, are confident of pulling off an upset victory.

"We'll play like we did in Sydney and attack," coach Eddie Thompson told reporters. "That's the only way to

get the victory we need."

Australia have been weakened by injuries to goalkeeper Mark Bosnich and striker Ned Zelic, but captain Paul Wade has been declared fit.

Thompson has also recalled striker Frank Farina, who missed the first leg through suspension.

Australia hope to complete four years of hard work by beating Argentina and qualifying for the World Cup finals.

"Victory on Wednesday would be the culmination of four years of hard work," Thompson said here Monday. "But we believe we can make sporting history by winning and establishing football in Australia."

Australian rules, rugby and cricket are far more popular down under, but the 1-1 draw with Diego Maradona's team in the first leg in Sydney last month gave the sport a boost.

Farina will play alongside Graham Arnold up front.

Robert Zubica, sent off in the first leg of Australia's play-off against Canada in Edmonton in August, is recalled.

FIFA have restricted the 70,000 capacity River Plate Stadium to 55,000.

And Maradona called on fans, who cheered Colombia off the pitch after their 3-0 thrashing which forced Argentina into the play-off, to be patient.

"We must be ready to wait for a goal," he said. "We have 90 minutes to score."

Wade will again be asked to mark Maradona. The superstar

strikers Les Ferdinand and Ian Wright in a normal 4-4-2 formation, rather than throwing in every possible attacking player and over-crowding the penalty box.

But he knows his side will need patience against a side which conceded six and seven to the Dutch only after having a man sent off in each game.

England themselves suffered 40 minutes of frustration before completing their 6-0 Wembley win against San Marino.

"We kept our nerve very well and came on late," Taylor recalled. "Our game is built on passing, movement, crossing and shooting and that will now be very important — particularly the last two qualities."

Taylor looks likely to pair

attacking is to prolong their own international prospects, come what may.

But it will be hard with barely 2,000 fans expected in the stadium.

Taylor said: "I'm interested to see the people who lose their nerve, the people who don't stick with you, who stop believing. I'm looking for those players who are still bolding onto their dream."

He added: "In many respects it doesn't really matter what happens to me, from their point of view. What matters to them is their future international careers, whoever is the manager. That is why we must do a good professional job."

"Anybody who's in my job knows that sometimes you have many things that don't always go the way you want them to and are out of your control."

"But sometimes it goes like that and you win and everybody thinks you're the bee's knees (excellent). So you can't have it both ways, you have to accept responsibility and I've always done that."

For his players, the incentive Wednesday to keep

England manager knows the knives are out

LONDON (R) — England Manager Graham Taylor knows critics will be hoping his World Cup dream turns into a complete nightmare in Bologna Wednesday.

Failure to qualify for the finals will be devastating to the game of soccer in England and Taylor believes he has enemies, inside the game as well as outside, who will relish his final humiliation.

"It's one of the baser sides of human nature," said Taylor as he prepared to fly out Monday for the game against San Marino in Bologna, where his team must win by seven goals and hope for a Polish victory over the Netherlands.

"It's personal thing aimed at me. People will say they don't believe it, but I live in the real world and know the situation exists. It's no different from when Bobby Robson was in charge. But it doesn't worry me."

Taylor is trying hard to project a positive mood through the pessimism which has followed the 2-0 defeat by the

Dutch in their last game.

But the sense of inevitability of a managerial era coming to an end casts a predictable pall over the build-up to the final game.

Although he refuses to clarify his future, Taylor insisted he would carry the can for the failure to reach the 1994 finals and not point the finger at players like Paul Gascoigne and Des Walker.

"There's no way I'm going to go in and blame anybody else. Whether managers like it or not, they are responsible for results," he said.

"Anybody who's in my job knows that sometimes you have many things that don't always go the way you want them to and are out of your control."

"But sometimes it goes like that and you win and everybody thinks you're the bee's knees (excellent). So you can't have it both ways, you have to accept responsibility and I've always done that."

For his players, the incentive Wednesday to keep

U.S. Soccer team beats Cayman Islands 8-1

MISSION VIEJO, California (R) — The United States pounded a badly out-classed Cayman Islands 8-1 in an international soccer friendly match Sunday.

Midfielder Dominic Kinnear, forward Joe-Max Moore and substitute forward Mark Chung all scored two goals apiece and forward Cobi Jones had three assists in the United States' highest-scoring outing ever.

Jeff Agoos and Mark Sastre

also had goals for the U.S. It was also the largest margin of victory ever for a U.S. national team.

Cayman Islands' forward Lee Ramoon scored in the 67th minute to make the score 5-1.

But the coordinated American attack, combined with a rugged defence led by Alexi Lalas, proved too much for the Cayman Islands, which was outshot 25-7 and managed only six shots on goal in the second half.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Rabin won't 'fall off chair' if deadline missed

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday he would not be surprised if Israeli and Palestinian negotiators failed to meet next month's deadline for the start of an Israeli troop withdrawal. "I won't fall off the chair if it will go on for another month and we'll reach an agreement," he told army radio in Washington, where he was on an official visit. In Cairo on Tuesday, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) began a second straight day of talks about the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho due to begin on Dec. 13. A Palestinian source reported slow but steady progress. Mr. Rabin said Israel was committed to its Sept. 13 peace deal giving Palestinians limited self-rule in the Israeli-occupied territories, despite efforts by opponents on both sides to torpedo the agreement.

Russian cargo plane crashes in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian search helicopters Tuesday located the wreckage of a Russian-built cargo jet that crashed into mountains near the southern city of Kerman, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The fate of the 17 crew members was unknown, according to the IRNA dispatch, which was monitored in Nicosia. It said two helicopters were scouring the area around crash site in the Joupar Heights, about 800 kilometres south of Tehran, in search of the black box. The Russian-built Antonov AN-124 was flying to Taskish, capital of the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan, when it lost radar contact and crashed Monday evening, IRNA said. The IRNA reports did not give the cause of the crash, but said the aircraft had received clearance for an emergency landing at Kerman airport, about 35 kilometres to the West.

Chinese ambassador clocks 195 kph

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Chinese diplomat was caught speeding along a desert road at 195 kilometre per hour, but police let him go after he claimed diplomatic immunity, reports said Tuesday. The car of Zhu Yinglu, China's ambassador to Egypt, ran a police roadblock and then led police on a high-speed chase over a stretch of 50 kilometres Monday after being clocked at 195 kph, said the Yedioh Ahronoth and Maavir dailies. Just outside the Red Sea resort of Eilat, police set up a second roadblock and officers with drawn weapons finally stopped Mr. Zhu's chauffeur-driven Mercedes, the dailies said. The diplomat's car had an Arabic licence plate and police at first suspected the occupants were guerrillas. "We don't drive like this here," Eilat police chief Amos Bar reportedly admonished the diplomat. "I'm in a hurry, don't delay me. I have a diplomatic passport," Mr. Zhu answered. The speed limit in Israel is 90 kph.

Waite: Being a political pawn was worst ordeal

BOSTON (AP) — Terry Waite says the hardest torture to endure during his four years as a hostage in Beirut was being treated as a political symbol rather than a human being. Having to remember that mistreatment was the most difficult part of writing his new memoir, "Taken On Trust," he said Monday. "The whole injustice of being caught up in a situation where people are treated as objects and not as people

"It's not easy to record," he said. The 54-year-old Church of England envoy signed copies of his book Monday afternoon at a downtown book store. Mr. Waite, an aide to Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, became a hostage himself after negotiating to win the release of British citizens, held captive in Iran and Libya. He was captured by the Islamic Jihad in 1987 on his second trip to Beirut. Mr. Waite spent most of his 1,63 days in captivity in solitary confinement, where he was chained, beaten and threatened with execution. Today, Mr. Waite is a fellow at Trinity College in Cambridge, England, where he is working on a sequel to "Taken on Trust." He also said he keeps close touch with some of his fellow former hostages, including Terry Anderson, former chief Middle Eastern correspondent of the Associated Press. "We don't have a club, you know. We don't have an old school tie. But we do keep in touch with each other," he said.

Aqazadeh in India to discuss gas pipeline

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh has begun talks with Indian officials in New Delhi on plans for a gas pipeline between the two countries, the official Iranian news agency said. "A delegation led by... Aqazadeh started deliberations Monday... on New Delhi's request for a pipeline from the Qeshm Islands in the 'Persian Gulf,'" IRNA reported late Monday. It said Petroleum Secretary T.N.R. Rao was leading the Indian side in talks over the multi-billion dollar project, which is competing with a planned undersea pipeline from Oman. IRNA did not say how long Mr. Aqazadeh would stay in India. Iran has 20 trillion cubic metres of natural gas — the world's second largest reserves after Russia — but until now has focused on oil as a source of energy and revenue. Oman, which has gas reserves of 600 billion cubic metres, has already signed an understanding with India for laying an undersea pipeline, IRNA said. But the agency added, without giving figures, that the cost of laying a pipeline from Iran would be cheaper than from Oman.

Israelis vote in second round of local polls

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Voters went to the polls Tuesday in a second round run-off in elections for mayor of 26 towns in Israel, officials said. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party which lost control of occupied Jerusalem in the first round on Nov. 2 and failed to wrest control of Tel Aviv to the right is also in danger in Acre. Labour's incumbent mayor of the northern town Eli de Castro faces a strong challenge from a right-wing Likud candidate who has support from orthodox Jewish religious parties. Safed in Galilee and the Mediterranean coastal strip cities of Rehovot and Hadera are up for grabs. The run-off is held where no candidate secure 40 per cent of the ballot first time out. Only 36 per cent of the electorate bothered to vote on Nov. 2.

Saudi criticises Iran over island row

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia criticised Iran Tuesday for saying it wanted better ties with Gulf Arab states but at the same time failing to resolve a dispute with the United Arab Emirates over three strategic islands. "At the time we hear from our neighbour Iran the desire to lay bridges of understanding with the region's countries, there are issues that do not conform or show that desire... We notice with great sorrow the continuation of the crisis between it and the UAE over the islands," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said. Prince Faisal was addressing the opening session of a meeting in Riyadh of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers. Iran has recently said that Prince Faisal and his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati were trying to arrange for a summit meeting between Saudi King and Iranian President Hashemi Akbar Rafsanjani. Prince Faisal hoped that Iran would "abolish measures on Abu Musa and work to solve the issue through dialogue, international law and international legitimacy."

Bomb defendant competent after suicide bid

NEW YORK (R) — A defendant in the World Trade Centre bombing case, who attempted to commit suicide last week, appeared pale and weak Monday but his lawyer said he was still competent to stand trial. The defendant, Ahmad Ajaj, a thin, 27-year-old Palestinian, is also continuing the second week of a hunger strike to protest conditions at the federal prison where he is being held, said his lawyer Austin Campriello. Mr. Campriello said an official at the Metropolitan Correction Centre in New York told him Friday that Mr. Ajaj had tried killing himself with a razor late Thursday. Prior to the beginning of Monday's trial, U.S. District Judge Kevin Duffy asked Mr. Campriello about Mr. Ajaj's condition. "I told him he was competent to proceed," Mr. Campriello told reporters.



LATEST VICTIM: Palestinians bury in a high school of Al Bireh Tuesday, Palestinian and seven Israelis were reported killed since the Israel-PLO agreement Sept. 13 (AFP photo)

Peres asks Juppe to set up Assad-Rabin summit talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel has asked the French to help arrange a summit between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad in order to break the deadlock in the peace talks, Israel Radio reported Tuesday.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Peres spoke Monday by phone with his French counterpart, Alain Juppe, who was scheduled to visit Syria on Wednesday, the report said.

Mr. Peres asked Mr. Juppe to try and arrange a Rabin-Assad summit, and to tell the Syrian president that a majority of Israelis back the peace talks with Syria, the radio said.

The Israeli foreign ministry said it was checking the report.

Mr. Rabin has said he first wanted to implement the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord on Palestinian autonomy, and then move on the Syrian track. But he told Israel Radio in remarks broadcast Tuesday that "if opportunities open up with another Arab state or states, there is no reason that we should miss these opportunities."

Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam said Tuesday there had been no secret talks between Israel and Syria and that the two countries were unlikely to reach a peace agreement by the end of the year.

Mr. Khaddam, in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, said Syria continues to demand a complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Syria's Golani Heights, as a precondition to a comprehensive peace settlement.

He said the Israel-PLO agreement grants Palestinians limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho had heightened Syrian suspicions.

Foreign Ministry reshuffled

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Tuesday reshuffled the Ministry's senior officials.

Shaher Bak was named director of the political department and will supervise the economic and cultural departments.

Ibrahim Naghawi was named director of the consular and expatriate affairs department, while Nabil Al Talhouni was appointed director of the international organisation and conferences department.

Nabil Shukun was appointed director of the studies and research department.

Ahmad Al Hasanat was named assistant secretary general for administrative and financial affairs and director of the administrative department.

Dr. Mohammad Shahenkr was appointed coordinator for negotiations and director of the internal audit office, and Ahmad Muhyayden was appointed director of the finance department.

"Had they stuck to the collective agreement formula, they would have benefited more and Israel would not have benefited from the disarray in the Arab ranks," said Mr. Khaddam.

"Israel continues to seek separate agreements and exploit opportunities, in order to impose more conditions and achieve more gains. Arab cooperation so far has not been up to a level that would serve Arab interests," he said.

He said the Israel-PLO agreement grants Palestinians limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho had heightened Syrian suspicions.

Fawwaz Al Bashir was appointed director of the technical office.

These transfers took immediate effect.

(Continued from page 1)

that key document in the democratisation process, he pointed out.

"A sense of Jordanian nationalism has grown up, an attachment to this country by all its people regardless of their origin." It was all part of "a collapse of many of the structures of the region," of a learning "from the experience that all of us (Arab and Jordanian) have gone through," the King said.

Speaking of threats, he dismissed Western ideas that the Muslim Brotherhood had really represented such a thing in Jordan. The West tended to "look at things with insufficient depth." Here in Jordan "we never felt we had a problem. Because all is out in the open."

Besides, the Muslim Brotherhood had, like all the other parties, subscribed to Jordan's National Charter,

which at about \$15 a ticket will benefit the first lady's Mount Pinatubo Fund, among other causes.

There are more than 45,000 Filipinos in Washington state, making them one of the state's biggest ethnic groups.

Tabloid readers find Charles unfit to be king

LONDON (R) — British tabloid readers generally think Prince Charles is unfit to be their king because of his broken marriage and alleged adultery, according to a newspaper poll published Tuesday.

The survey of 20,000 people who responded to a questionnaire published in the Sun newspaper revealed a strong body of anti-Charles opinion and firm support for his estranged wife, Princess Diana.

Three in five people, or around 65 per cent, thought the 45-year-old heir apparent should renounce the throne, and let his son William succeed Queen Elizabeth, according to the survey results published in Tuesday's Sun. Around 69 per cent said his alleged affair with his bride's wife Camilla Parker Bowles made him unfit to be king and 71 per cent said he had damaged the royal family's reputation.

Seventy-six per cent held Prince Charles solely to blame for the formal separation from Princess Diana last December. Princess Diana, a popular princess who gets more positive coverage in the Sun than her high-profile husband, won wide support. Sixty-one per cent wanted her to be queen consort despite her broken marriage.

"We were absolutely flabbergasted by the response. A clear picture emerges of what people think of Prince Charles," said the Sun's deputy editor Stuart Hignett.

Bishops rally around cardinal in sex case

WASHINGTON (R) — The nation's Catholic bishops rallied around Chicago Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, predicting he would be vindicated.

Cardinal Bernardin, president of the National Catholic Bishop Conference, opened the annual meeting with a strong vote of confidence for Cardi-

Iraqis cross border, plant flag in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Hundreds of Iraqis planted the Iraqi flag on Kuwaiti territory on Tuesday to protest against a border security trench being dug by the emirate, the United Nations said.

About 250 Iraqis threw stones during the two-hour demonstration to chase away workers digging the trench which they said had been built on Iraqi farms without warning.

Kuwait later reported Iraqi troops had shot at a Kuwaiti border post. The United Nations declined to comment on the charge.

"With Iraqi flags in their hands the Iraqi demonstrators headed for one farm which was divided on Monday into two parts, one in Kuwait and one in Iraq, by the Kuwaiti trench, and chased the contractors away by throwing stones at them," the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) said in a statement.

"Also they planted the Iraqi flag on the berm (wall) which was located 20 metres south of the trench on the Kuwaiti side," said the statement telephoned to Reuters by UNIKOM spokesman Abdul Latif Kabbaj. He declined to say how many flags had been planted.

Kuwaiti Interior Minister Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud Al Sabah denounced the border crossing as flagrant aggression.

He said the Iraqis had numbered 350 and some had carried light weapons.

Diplomats said the Iraqis had been accompanied by a group of reporters. One envoy described the Iraqis as "rent-a-crowd."

The incursion was the second border confrontation in a month between Kuwait and its former occupier. It happened two days before the U.N. Security Council holds a regular 60-day review of economic sanctions imposed on Baghdad for its August 1990 conquest of the emirate.

Kuwait said the U.N. should maintain sanctions because Iraq had kept up its territorial claim and continued to hold up to 600 Kuwaitis detained during its seven-month occupation.

"Otherwise, Iraqi objectives

will continue to pose a threat to security and peace in the region," Kuwait's ambassador to the U.N. Mohammad Abu Hassan said in a statement issued here.

Iraq denies it holds any Kuwaitis.

Kuwaiti statements also said Iraqi troops had shot at the emirate's Al Mazzara border post in the same sector of the border where the demonstration against the trench had occurred.

Mr. Kabbaj declined to comment on the report.

He said the Iraqis were unarmed. They had turned up at the Al Abdali area in 100 cars and three buses.

The Iraqi liaison officer to UNIKOM who was at that scene stated (to UNIKOM) that this was a peaceful demonstration by the Iraqi farmers who were angry about the digging operations through their farms without any warning.

"The entire incident was closely monitored by U.N. military observers who pointed out to them (the Iraqis) that UNIKOM considers this actions as a violation."

At the U.N., Iraqi and U.N. officials Monday began setting an agenda for two weeks of arms talks that Baghdad hopes will pave the way to lifting three years of sanctions that have cut off vital oil exports.

The Iraqi delegation paid a courtesy call to Rolf Ekeus,

head of the U.N. special commission in charge of dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

A spokesman said talks Tuesday would begin on chemical weapons.

For the special commission progress must also include agreement to begin a long-term monitoring programme.

The Iraqi team is headed by General Amir Mohammad Rashid, director of Baghdad's Military-Industrial Authority,

who led a similar mission to New York in September.

Democracy irreversible reality'

(Continued from page 1)

that key document in the democratisation process, he pointed out.

"A sense of Jordanian nationalism has grown up, an attachment to this country by all its people regardless of their origin." It was all part of "a collapse of many of the structures of the region," of a learning "from the experience that all of us (Arab and Jordanian) have gone through," the King said.

Speaking of threats, he dismissed Western ideas that the Muslim Brotherhood had really represented such a thing in Jordan. The West tended to "look at things with insufficient depth." Here in Jordan "we never felt we had a problem. Because all is out in the open."

Besides, the Muslim Brotherhood had, like all the other parties, subscribed to Jordan's National Charter,

which at about \$15 a ticket will benefit the first lady's Mount Pinatubo Fund, among other causes.

There are more than 45,000 Filipinos in Washington state, making them one of the state's biggest ethnic groups.

Tabloid readers find Charles unfit to be king

LONDON (R) — British tabloid readers generally think Prince Charles is unfit to be their king because of his broken marriage and alleged adultery, according to a newspaper poll published Tuesday.

The survey of 20,000 people who responded to a questionnaire published in the Sun newspaper revealed a strong body of anti-Charles opinion and firm support for his estranged wife, Princess Diana.

Three in five people, or around 65 per cent, thought the 45-year-old heir apparent should renounce the throne, and let his son William succeed Queen Elizabeth, according to the survey results published in Tuesday's Sun. Around 69 per cent said his alleged affair with his bride's wife Camilla Parker Bowles made him unfit to be king and 71 per cent said he had damaged the royal family's reputation.

Seventy-six per cent held Prince Charles solely to blame for the formal separation from Princess Diana last December. Princess Diana, a popular princess who gets more positive coverage in the Sun than her high-profile husband, won wide support. Sixty-one per cent wanted her to be queen consort despite her broken marriage.

"We were absolutely flabbergasted by the response. A clear picture emerges of what people think of Prince Charles," said the Sun's deputy editor Stuart Hignett.

Bishops rally around cardinal in sex case

WASHINGTON (R) — The nation's Catholic bishops rallied around Chicago Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, predicting he would be vindicated.

Cardinal Bernardin, president of the National Catholic Bishop Conference, opened the annual meeting with a strong vote of confidence for Cardi-

nal Khaled Al Ajamieh, Aref Batayneh, Talal Obaidat, Abdul Hadi Al Majali (Karak); and Hani Hijazi (Karak).

Cardinal Bernardin, president of the National Catholic Bishop Conference, opened the annual meeting with a strong vote